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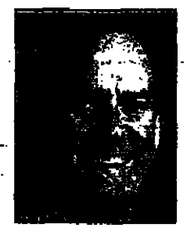
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JANET DALEY

The press, the PM and recycled gossip

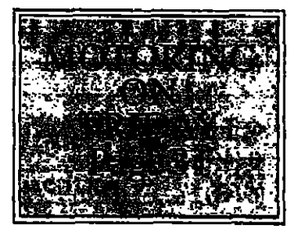
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JOHN CLEESE

How to survive this thing called life

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THE TIMES

No. 64,554 FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1993 45p

Major and Latimer sue two magazines for libel

■ The prime minister's decision to sue two magazines for libel appears to have done little to calm the storms over allegations about his private life and the role of the press

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday became only the fourth prime minister this century to sue for libel when he issued writs against two magazines over rumours about his private life. The caterer whose name was linked with Mr Major is also taking legal action.

Mr Major instructed his solicitors to act after the *New Statesman and Society* published a three-page article repeating rumours about him and 41-year-old Clare Latimer. Mr Major and Ms Latimer are also suing the obscure satirical news-sheet *Scallywag*, which published similar allegations last month. Both journals vowed to defend the actions.

The libel suits were launched on the eve of a Commons debate on a private member's bill seeking tighter controls on the press, and that if the *Scallywag* allegations were ever reprinted for a wider audience, they would be swiftly denied and legal action taken. On Wednesday, the *New Statesman* published its article, prompting reports in many newspapers yesterday, and the contingency plan was put into action.

Downing Street completely denied the rumours, announced that writs would be issued and said that the prime minister would meet his own legal costs. Mr Major's solicitors, Biddle & Co, followed up the writs by securing the withdrawal of this week's *New Statesman* from the shelves of W.H. Smith and John Menzies. That action achieved some of the impact of an injunction without having to argue the case in court. Miss Latimer's solicitors later issued writs against the two magazines and against the distributors BPCC, W.H. Smith, Menzies and Comag.

Last night Miss Latimer told reporters outside her catering business in Chalk Farm, north London, that she was suing "because it is totally untrue". In Oman, Mr Major insisted that he would have nothing to add to his formal statement "now or later".

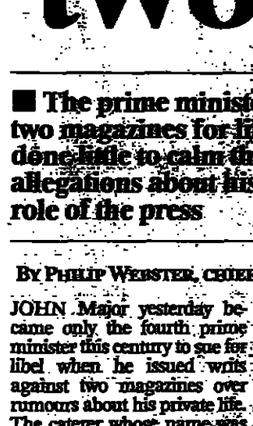
Steve Platt, editor of the *New Statesman* and co-author of the article, last night expressed dismay and astonishment at the prime minister's decision to sue, but robustly defended his story and said he was confident that he would win if the case went to court. "We don't expect that they would be successful," he said. "We believe that there *is* nothing contained within this article that is remotely libellous. The risk involved in going to court over this lies entirely with the prime minister. He is in danger of painting himself into a corner."

It is rare for prime ministers to embark on legal proceedings, although Harold Wilson did so several times. During the 1951 election campaign, Winston Churchill settled out of court after suing the *Daily Mirror* over an article which he said implied that he was a warmonger. At the end of the first world war, David Lloyd-George sued successfully over allegations that he was offering honours for sale.

In the Commons last night, almost all Conservative MPs backed Mr Major's decision to sue, although there was no

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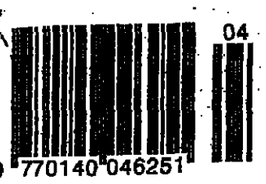
MPs were last night citing the *New Statesman* article as further proof of the need for statutory curbs although Downing Street officials — in constant touch with the prime minister on tour in Oman — remained aloof from the argument.

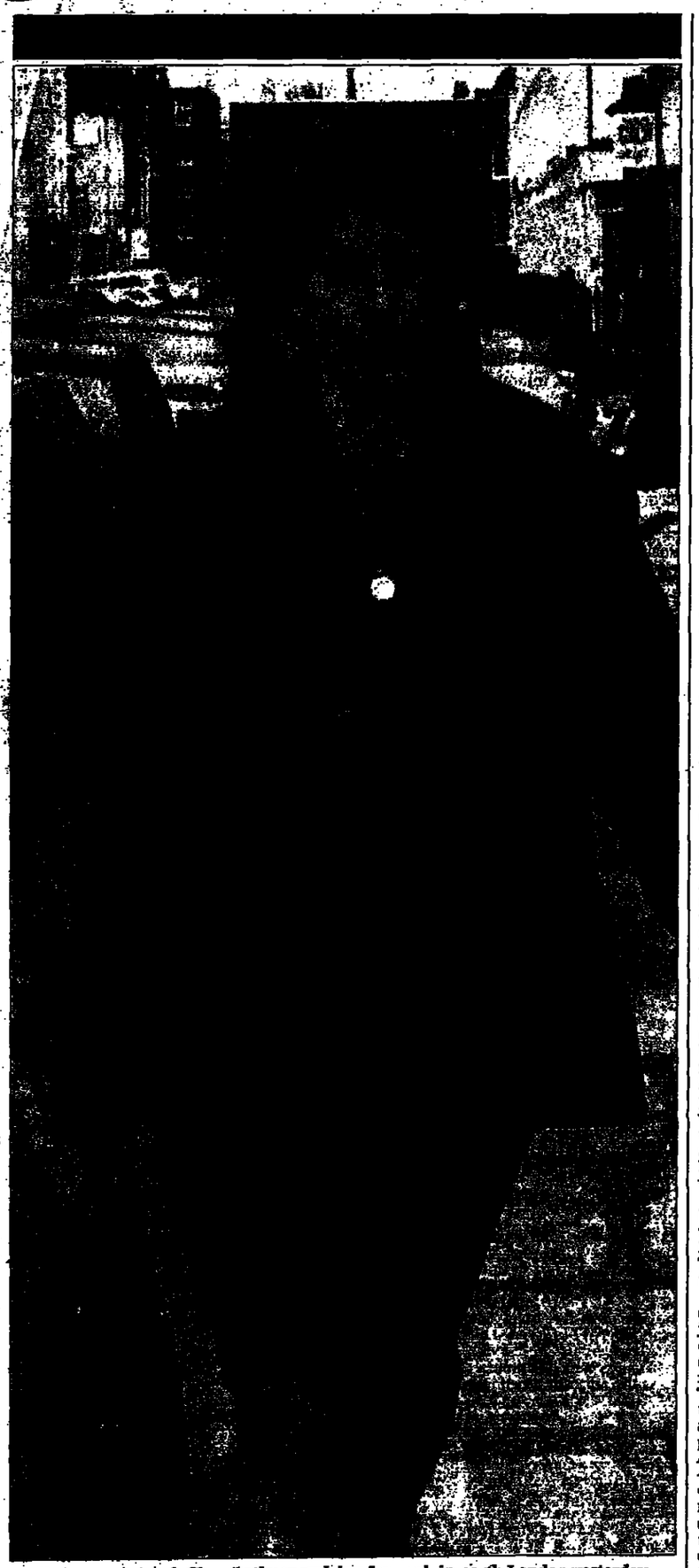
Mr Major himself declared "business as usual" on a marathon day of travelling, which took him from India to Oman and on to Saudi Arabia before leaving for London last night. He had decided to sue during his morning flight from Bombay to Muscat after his senior staff and lawyers in London had been in consultation through the night.

Mr Major and top officials had decided several weeks ago

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Business as usual: Clare Latimer arriving for work in north London yesterday

Vickers clinches £150m tank deal

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN RIYADH

JOHN Major flew into Riyadh last night for talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia after announcing that Oman has decided to buy Britain's Challenger 2 as its new battle tank. The prime minister also continued his efforts to shore up the coalition against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman told Mr Major in talks at his desert encampment of the order won by Vickers Defence Systems. The Oman government is placing a £150 million contract for 18 tanks and four armoured support and recovery vehicles. A further 18 will follow later. It is the first export order for the Challenger 2 that has already been chosen for the British army.

Mr Major's talks in Oman and Riyadh were intended to remove any doubts among the Arab members of the coalition about the recent allied attacks on Iraq. Mr Major was again emphasising that they were in proportion to the repeated breaches of the ceasefire agreement by Iraq.

The prime minister told a press conference in Muscat that he was happy that the Arab states understood that the recent action was in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law.

However, he is thought to have made a claim that Britain understands the worries of some Arab countries about the power balance in the Middle East, including worries about Iraq's long-term intentions. Mr Major emphasised that the allied aim was not to dismember Iraq, which the Arab neighbours see as a necessary buffer to Iran, but to ask it to comply with UN resolutions.

The tanks deal marked a breakthrough for Vickers, which has production lines in Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne. The tanks are expected to enter service about 1995.

In Riyadh, King Fahd was expected to reassure Mr Major that Saudi Arabia remains committed to the $63 billion (£41 billion) al-Yamahah armaments deal with Britain. The contract was first agreed to run in two stages, in 1985 and 1988. But the second part, under which British Aerospace expects to supply 48 additional Tornado bombers, has so far failed to materialise. The Saudi government has said recently that it is still committed to the deal but gave no clue on timing.

Clinton looks at options for action in Balkans

BY IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Clinton administration is giving utmost priority to a sweeping review of Washington's options in the Balkan conflict, including large-scale use of American military power.

White House sources said that nothing had been ruled out, even sending ground troops to the former Yugoslavia. Such intervention was vigorously opposed by the Bush administration, and was not proposed by the Clinton camp during the election campaign.

Officials in Washington say that every imaginable course of action is being explored. Other options under consideration include arming Bosnian Muslims, bombing Serb airfields and artillery positions, shooting down Serb aircraft breaching the air exclusion zone in Bosnia and tightening international sanctions against Serbia. The study will also consider how much military force would be needed to lift the siege of Sarajevo and to ensure unrestricted passage for aid convoys.

The prime minister and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, are keeping in close touch with President Clinton and Warren Christopher, his Secretary of State, during the review. Mr Hurd told the Commons foreign affairs committee that he believed Washington still regarded the conflict as "primarily a European problem", adding: "I see no likelihood of American ground troops being involved in an international military effort to impose a solution on any part of Yugoslavia."

Mr Hurd told the Commons committee that so long as the 2,400 Britons were doing a good job helping to protect aid convoys and were doing it in relative safety, they would remain. The carrier *Ark Royal* was being sent to the Adriatic to give the troops extra protection or to evacuate them should the situation deteriorate. "We're not sending the carrier to extend the grounds of our action or be sucked in." He did, however, say that the UN protection force's role should be expanded, although he did not elaborate.

In spite of Mr Hurd's belief that any American involvement in the Balkans would be limited, Mr Christopher privately told members of Congress that Bosnia "does seem to be a place where the US needs to be activist and internationalist in our outlook". He emphasised that America must keep in mind "the outrageous situation — killings, rapes, 'ethnic cleansing' — and situations that either border on genocide or are actually genocidal".

The breadth of the Washington review — ordered by the National Security Council and considering opinions from the Pentagon, the CIA, and the State Department — indicates that Mr Clinton is prepared to consider an expanded role in the Balkans. What is not clear, however, is how he will deal with the reluctance of Britain, France and other European countries to become more deeply involved. He must also consider the question of public opinion should he decide to take a lead.

Balkan morass, page 10
Leading article, page 15

Imports defy recession to reach record high

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

IMPORTS surged to record levels in December plunging Britain's foreign trade balance further into the red.

The value of imports, at £10.9 billion, climbed from £10.6 billion in November partly reflecting increased activity in the economy and partly the devaluation last September when the pound dropped out of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Exports slipped slightly in December, widening Britain's trade gap to £1.74 billion. In the City, the poor trading performance triggered concern that the balance of payments could worsen sharply once economic recovery begins.

The current account deficit almost doubled to £11.8 billion last year compared with £6.3 billion in 1991 and is expected to deteriorate further during this year. In December alone, Britain had a deficit on visible trade of £1.7 billion, the largest shortfall in any month since July 1990.

There has so far been little sign that exporters have capitalised on the competitive boost from the devaluation of sterling and, throughout last year, imports continued to outstrip exports in spite of weak demand from consumers and industry.

Full details, page 19

Sad spectacle for yachtsmen

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

ROBIN Knox-Johnston discovered yesterday that when life attempts to imitate art, certain practicalities intrude on the narrative. Phileas Fogg, for example, did not have to contend with forgetting his spectacles. Nor, when Fogg got started, was he confronted with a runaway boat containing representatives of the press.

Knox-Johnston and Peter Blake set out from the Hamble yesterday en route for Brest, where they will start their attempt to sail around the world in 80 days. But they had barely got under way before Knox-Johnston discovered that he had lost his glasses. A replacement pair was summoned, but another spectacle was to come.

The 85ft catamaran *Enza* had reached Beaulieu when both engines on the accompanying press boat cut out. By the time they were restarted, *Enza* was bearing down fast, with Blake and Knox-Johnston oblivious to the problem.

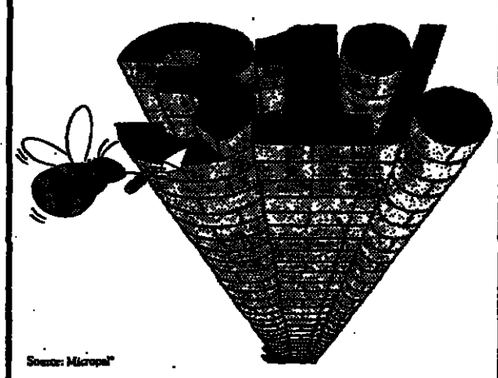
The engines were restarted just in time to avert complete disaster but as the press boat sped backwards out of *Enza's* path, her overhanging anchor snagged the catamaran's safety lines, pulling one stanchion clean out of the deck.

That might have scuppered the whole project since there was no suitable equipment on board the catamaran to repair the damage, but if Knox-Johnston could not repair it, he knew a man who could. He radioed Sea Start, an AA-style mobile repair service for mariners. An engineer bearing parts, and glue, arrived in an inflatable.

The most serious damage, it turned out, was to the yachtsmen's pride and *Enza* was soon heading for France. A spokesman said last night: "Luckily the hull was not holed. The damage is superficial, and the crew will be able to make repairs at sea."

Blake and Knox-Johnston expect a favourable break in the weather today and will set out from Brest as soon as conditions are right. A rival French attempt, aboard the catamaran *Commodore Explorer*, had planned to start at the same time, but that may now be delayed until Saturday.

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MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Sparky session ends up as a minor accident

We've got to discuss the whole future of the potato regime, announced junior agriculture minister David Curry to MPs yesterday. Silently demurring, *your sketchwriter slipped* away ...

... Returning to find the Leader of the House, Tony Newton, on his feet. It was his chance both to make a political point and to flatter our famous bruiser of a home secretary, Kenneth Clarke. "My *vigorous* and Right hon friend the home secretary," began Newton, "said this morning that mass murderers of his kind ..."

Too late. The laughter was already swelling.

"Of *Nilsen's* kind," stammered Mr Newton. But all was lost. The roars of hilarity actually started in the *press gallery (where silence* is the rule), then spread to the Conservative party, and were finally taken up by the Official Opposition, who are slowest off the mark.

"Of *this* kind ..." Newton *tried again. But it was no* good. The rest of his answer was blown away in a gale of laughter. The afternoon teetered on the brink of farce.

Geoffrey Dickens (C, *Littleborough and Saddleworth) pushed it over the* brink. A friendly minister had just leaned back over his bench to explain to Mr Dickens why everyone was laughing. Pink faced and perspiring, the massive *Yorkshire MP understood* finally that his chief was in trouble, and decided to help.

Dickens reminded Newton of the interest rate cut. "Is that not *some* good news," he boomed, "coming *out of all this gloom?*"

This time it was the Labour party who were fastest to celebrate the joke. Tories tried to suppress their mirth, failed, spluttered and moaned. "This is a total waste of valuable question time!" wailed Madam Speaker — a remark intend*ed to apply to them all but* which MPs took as an assessment of Mr Dickens's parliamentary career.

Newton, whose session of standing in for the absent prime minister had started brilliantly with good news about Challenger tanks, stared at his notes. "Why me?" his expression seemed to say. A well-liked and increasingly sparky minister, Newton's front-bench *performances have the al*lure of a minor road-accident: nobody is hurt, but the episode ends with the Tonymobile up a tree, straddling a culvert, or upside down in a ditch.

Mr Newton wound down the window and climbed out, blinking. A passing environmentalist cycled straight into him.

Well, it was either an *environmentalist or a* football fan. Shouting "save the forest!" from the public gallery, a hairy-looking fellow was dragged away. All this occurred in the middle of Mr Newton's next answer. Sad to relate, his statistics on mortgage repossessions were ignored. Poor Mr Newton faltered halfway through and stopped to work out why nobody was listening.

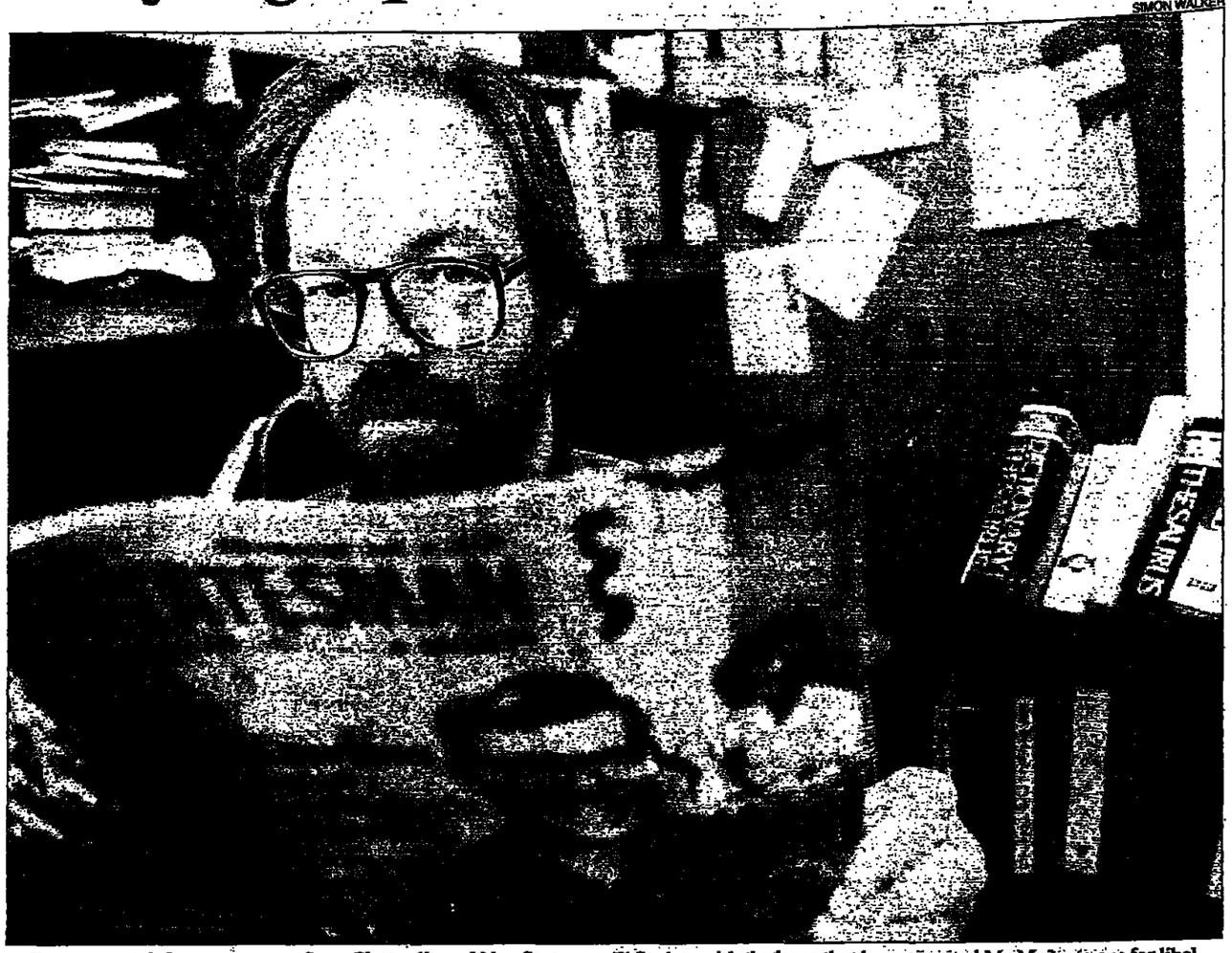
*Crumpling, the hairy pro*tester managed to release a figleaf-shaped piece of card enscribed "the last leaf". It floated down, to be retrieved by Dennis Skinner below. Holding it, the Beast of Bolsover *then tried to catch* Madam Speaker's eye.

He might as well have been made of glass.

Timetable of events on the prime minister's extraordinary 29-hour day

Major's flying squad moves into action

SIMON WALKER



Famous past, infamous present: Steve Platt, editor of *New Statesman & Society*, with the issue that has prompted Mr Major to sue for libel

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN MUSCAT AND RIYADH

IT WAS the trip that some said should never have been undertaken. It certainly had the most astonishing end to any prime ministerial foreign visit.

Some 30,000ft over the Indian Ocean yesterday, John Major sat with his closest advisers and decided to take legal action against one maga*zine with a famous past and* another with a dubious future. As he arrived back at Heathrow this morning, he may have been wondering if he should have stayed at home.

It had all seemed so different when he arrived in jovial mood at a reception for the Indian business community about 7pm Bombay time (1.30pm in London) on Wednesday. He and his entourage were justifiably congratulating themselves on a successful five-day visit.

The bombshell that was to change the mood came after he had delivered his speech hailing a big step forward in Anglo-Indian relations. As he *returned to his hotel suite*, Stephen Wall, his chief foreign affairs adviser, told him that *New Statesman & Society* was running allegations about his private life. Events moved swiftly.

10.35pm (5.05pm London): A press briefing was cancelled as Mr Wall, Gus O'Donnell, Mr Major's chief press secretary, Graham Bright, his parliamentary private secretary, and other aides conferred with Mr Major.

12.05am Thursday: Mr O'Donnell gave a formal denial in the name of the Downing Street press secretary, that the allegations were "completely untrue". No decision had been taken on legal action, but it was clearly under consideration. Mr Major called his wife, Norma, in his Huntingdon constituency, just after midnight. He went to bed at 12.45am, having asked his lawyers and other staff to weigh the case for legal action. Through the night his staff in Bombay and Downing Street discussed the next steps.

6am: Mr Major rose in a "chipper" mood. It was disclosed *that when copies of the* satirical magazine *Scally Wag* began circulating in December, he decided with senior officials that, if the allegations were repeated to a wider audience, they would be de*nied and legal action would be* considered.

9.20am: Mr Major left Bombay for Muscat, in Oman. The press learns that an announcement on legal action will be made soon after *the party reaches Muscat.*

11am Muscat (7am London): After a three-and-a-half hour flight, Mr Major stepped into the overpowering heat of Seeb airport and was greeted by Qais Munim al-Zawawi, the deputy prime minister for financial affairs. He was whisked off in an army helicopter to the desert to meet Sultan Qaboos bin Said al-Said, who was on his annual tour of the country. On the plane, Mr Major gave his final authority to legal proceedings against *New Statesman* and *Scally Wag*, whose January issue had contained much of the same material.

12.10pm: Mr O'Donnell reads a statement to the press in Muscat and to a senior colleague in London. It says: "The *prime minister has today* instructed solicitors Biddle & Company to issue writs for libel against *New Statesman & Society* and against *Scally Wag*." Queries over whether there would be any legal *action against other publi*cations were met with the response that such matters were for the lawyers. It was made plain that the prime minister would be paying his own legal costs.

3.15pm: Mr Major returns from the desert after talks lasting two and a half hours with the sultan. Back at Muscat he conferred again with aides to prepare for a brief press conference and to be briefed on world events and the Harrods bomb.

4pm: Mr Major announced that the Omani government was placing a £150 million order for the Challenger II and its next main battle tank. He answered questions from local journalists about British policy on Iraq and Israel, and fielded the inevitable questions from British journalists: "I confirm that I have instructed solicitors to issue writs for libel. I have nothing further to add to that now or later."

4.45pm: Mr Major's plane took off for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Mr Major was clearly tired but was smiling and relaxed as he chatted to the travelling press contingent.

6.00pm Riyadh (3pm London): Mr Major and his *team put down for a six-hour* stop and talks with King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz on Bosnia, the Gulf and trade. He was due to leave for London at about 9pm British time and arrive back at Heathrow at about *5am today, some 29 hours* after rising in Bombay. Today he travels to Scotland.

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Janet Daley, page 14

Major sues for libel

Continued from page 1

mention of the case within the chamber. John Smith, the Labour leader, was said to regard the reports as "distasteful" and to have no intention of seeking a political advantage from them. Paddy Ashdown, who has admitted that he had had an affair with a former secretary, said it was a private matter for Mr Major.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the Conservative 1922 committee, said that had the article appeared only in the *New Statesman* and then sunk without trace, the prime minister might have been able to stay his hand. But some of the tabloid coverage had removed any doubts: "I don't think the *prime minister had any alter*native but to issue writs."

Mr Major's officials meanwhile made clear that he would be paying his own legal bills, and rejected any parallels with the Norman Lamont case in which the taxpayer contributed £4,700 towards the Chancellor's costs in engaging Peter Carter-Ruck and Co to assist in the eviction of a so-called sex therapist who was renting his London home.

Lawyers say writ does not mean gag on publication

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS were quick yesterday to speculate that John Major's decision not to go for an interim injunction stopping publication of the articles in *New Statesman & Society* and *Scallywag* was a sign that the two magazines are on strong ground.

The consensus among those who read the *New Statesman* article was that it was sufficiently harmless for a judge to be reluctant to grant an injunction.

When someone sues for libel and believes there is no defence to publication, an injunction can swiftly be granted and the publisher can apply for a hearing to argue that it should be discharged. *But if the publisher succeeds* in arguing that the article does not mean what is alleged, or that any meaning can be justified, then the injunction would be refused.

The leading libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck said: "It would appear that there are two issues here: first, whether the article is defamatory; and second, if it is, whether it is fair comment of a matter in the public interest." Any temporary injunction stopping further publication, which would bind all the press, would then stay in place until trial or a further order, he said. But the other side could apply to have it discharged.

Biddle & Co, Mr Major's *lawyers, have sought an in*junction in the writ. This is standard procedure and means that if he is successful in court, an order will be granted preventing repetition of the article.

*Without the temporary in*junction, however, lawyers took the view yesterday that the writ in this case would not amount to a "gag" on publication. Brian Raymond of Bindmans, solicitor for *New Statesman & Society*, which said it would vigorously contest any libel action, said: "The writ just puts people on notice that the plaintiff regards this as defamatory and everyone better watch out.

"It doesn't really prevent discussion of the issue — on the BBC one o'clock news there was an abbreviated form of a summary of the article, which examines the rumours about the prime minister and how they were investigated by various papers and concludes there is no truth in them."

He added: "We are contesting this all the way. No reasonable person reading that article could come away with an impression adverse to *the prime minister — quite the* contrary."

If Mr Major pursues his writ to trial, it could take anything from six months to a year before a hearing takes place.

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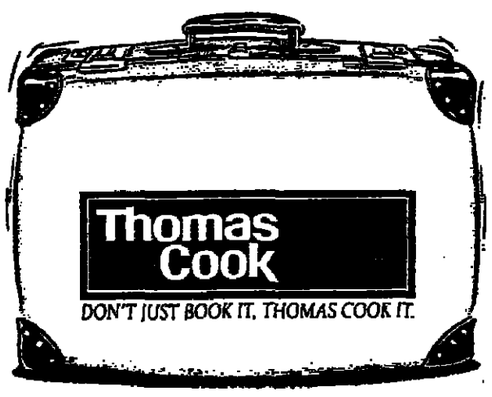
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The acceptable and farcical faces of No. 10's media foes

BY NICHOLAS WATT

LIKE its political soul mates in the Labour party, the *New Statesman* has shed its dusty Fabian image in favour of a slick layout. The imminent closure forecast by many two years ago has been fended off and large losses were last year replaced by a modest profit.

As the magazine celebrates *its 80th year with another* relaunch today, circulation is nudging 25,000 after an all-time low of 20,000 in 1990. While this is a far cry from the 93,000 copies a week sold at its high point in 1966, Steve *Platt, editor since 1991, is* confident that circulation will climb steadily.

Mr Platt, 38, the fourth editor in five years, said yesterday that the magazine would move ahead as a supporter of the broad left. "I am a passive Labour party member," he said. "I agree with the Liberal Democrats on some issues."

As a former writer on *Time Out*, the London listings magazine, Mr Platt said he was *one of the first editors of New* Statesman & Society without an establishment background. "I didn't go to public school, though I did study at the London School of Economics which maintains the link with the Webbs [the magazine's founders who taught at the LSE]," he said.

The *New Statesman* employs 22 full-time staff, who have a majority shareholding in the company. The Statesman and Nation Publishing Company is run by a 12-*member board headed by the* magazine's investigative journalist, Duncan Campbell, who uncovered the Zircon satellite affair.



Regan: holds editorial meetings in pubs

Scally Wag, the other magazine to publish allegations about John Major's private life, does not share *New Statesman's* distinguished history. Its publisher, a former *News of the World* reporter, boasts that it is produced by "the gifted, inebriated and insane ... any part of it may be stolen and reproduced provided the interested party buys the editor a pint".

Simon Regan, 50, *Scally Wag's* editor and publisher, has a staff of two and no offices. Editorial meetings are held in Weymouth pubs. He founded *Scally Wag* in the late 1980s to expose alleged corruption in Dorset.

Mr Regan said the magazine is "apolitical, or if anything a little bit anarchist". He said yesterday that he did not fear a libel action. "We only just break even. We don't even pay ourselves wages."

Additional reporting by Paul Lashmar

Diary, page 14

Homely cooking skills learnt from mother

BY ROBIN YOUNG

CLARE Latimer, who issued writs yesterday against two magazines that named her in articles about the private life of the prime minister, is an unmarried woman of 41 who runs a successful catering business called Clare's Kitchen, in north London.

She has known John Major since he was a junior whip, and there has been no secret that Mr Major is keen on her stylish brand of English cooking. She has catered regularly for parties in Downing Street and around Westminster, *charging £4.50 to £8 a head* for cocktail parties, and aiming to serve "traditional, old-fashioned English food without overly expensive ingredients" at dinner parties.

Miss Latimer, whose father *is the actor, Hugh Latimer*, says she was not Mr Major's choice as Downing Street's outside caterer. "He inherited me from his days as Chancellor of the Exchequer," she says.

She began catering 20 years ago and says she learnt most of her cooking skills from her mother. She worked as cook for the Italian Grand Prix racing team Lola for four years before returning to London to start catering from her home in Hampstead.

Clare's Kitchen has premises in Primrose Hill where kitchen and shop are set up like a homely country kitchen with gas stoves and pine wood cupboards. Miss Latimer works in both kitchen and shop with her partner, Zoe Jackson, and a team of young cooks. Most of her food for Downing Street is precooked there and reheated in the Downing Street kitchens.

Miss Latimer specialises in political catering, she said, "because that is what interests me most", but she added: "I also do a lot of acting parties for people I know through my father. There are about eight or nine top politicians who choose to have me cook for them. I used to get excited about going into Downing Street but now I'm totally casual about it."

Denizens of Downing Street who fought for reputations

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

MOST prime ministers under fire from the press have taken the attitude of the Duke of Wellington when the blackmailer Joseph Stockdale threatened to print the incriminating memoirs of Harriette Wilson: "Publish and be damned."

Most, but not all. In 1909, Lloyd George, then Chancellor, successfully sued *The People* for £1,000 after the *newspaper accused him of having an* affair with a married woman. His eldest son, the 2nd Earl Lloyd George, later revealed that the allegations had been true but that his father had persuaded his wife, who was "mortally hurt by his infidelities", to commit perjury in his defence. As prime minister, Lloyd George also issued several successful writs over accusations that he had offered honours for sale during the first world war.

Even Churchill could be goaded into action by adverse coverage. In October 1940, he was enraged by a *series of articles in the Sunday Pictorial* and *Daily Mirror*, one of which included a claim by H.G. Wells that "we stood no chance of beating the Germans" without better leadership. Only the war cabinet's intervention dissuaded him from prosecution.

Eleven years later, he issued a writ against the *Daily Mirror*, which accused him of being a warmonger during the 1951 general election campaign with the famous headline: "Whose finger do you want on the trigger?" Re-installed in Number Ten, Churchill accepted a £1,000 settle*ment from the newspaper.*

Harold Wilson, according to his biographer Ben Pimlott, "never learnt the art of riding a punch" in his dealings with a hostile press, and was perhaps the most litigious prime minister of the century. In 1968, the Labour premier received "appropriate" damages plus costs in a settlement with the American publishers of *International Herald Tribune*, which had repeated scurrilous rumours about his personal life. After victory in the 1974 election, Wilson issued a flurry of writs to the *Daily Mail* and its chief investigative reporter, Harry Longmuir, who was subsequently named journalist of the year.

Boredom and truancy widespread problems in secondary schools

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

TRUANCY, bullying and boredom with lessons are widespread, according to a study of children's attitudes to school released today. Most secondary pupils were keen to learn and enjoyed school, but a significant minority was hostile and felt alienated, according to the report by the National Foundation for Educational Research.

At least 23 per cent of 14-year-old pupils, in their third year at secondary school, admitted skipping the occasional day or lesson. Children were more likely to abscond as they grew older.

Bullying was most serious among first-years, with more than half of 12-year-olds reporting incidents. At least 15 per cent complained they were often victimised by bullies. Almost 10 per cent of pupils said they were bored in all or most lessons, with up to 55 per cent agreeing they found some classes tedious. Motivation dropped by the time pupils reached the third year.

The findings, based on a survey of 1,160 first-years and 980 third-years, support a larger project investigating truancy among 14- to 16-year-olds by the University of North London for the education department.

The unpublished results, now in the hands of John Patten, the education secretary, are expected to confirm about one in three pupils have played truant, with one in five deliberately doing so to avoid particular lessons.

Mr Patten believes truancy often triggers a "cycle of criminality". All schools will be required under the citizen's charter to publish their truancy rates this year.

The smaller study was carried out for the National Commission on Education, an independent inquiry to report in the autumn. It links pupils' attitudes towards school with the ability of teachers to maintain high expectations, keep classroom discipline and give children regular feedback.

At least 15 per cent of pupils said they spent more than two hours on homework, 20 per cent an hour and a half, 30 per cent an hour, 20 per cent half an hour or less, and ten per cent said they did none. Nearly 40 per cent of pupils found time to read for fun almost every day, but 18 per cent said they never did this. Almost a third of pupils watched television or videos for four hours or more each day.

Margaret Maden, chairman of the NCE working group on schools, society and citizenship, said there was justifiable anxiety about young people who found school an alienating experience.

There were indications of high expectations of learning and strong support for the value of schools but also "inescapable signs of disenchantment with certain aspects of school life and school work".

What Do Students Think About School? by Wendy Keys and Cres Fernandes (National Foundation for Educational Research, The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 2DQ; £8)

☐ Governors at the first school where a parental ballot for grant-maintained status ended in a tie are to appeal to John Patten, the education secretary, for permission to repeat the vote. The ballot at Shirley high school, Croydon, was deadlocked at 332 votes each.



TIM BISHOP

Off the rails: the front carriage of a train hanging from a viaduct above homes in Ramsgate, Kent, after it crashed while pulling into sidings yesterday. Evacuated residents were allowed home later but were due to move out again early this morning while a crane salvaged the train

Unions warn teachers over threat of false abuse claims

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TWO teachers' unions yesterday warned their members of a growing risk of malicious allegations of child abuse since the the Children Act became law.

In separate announcements, the National Association of Head Teachers and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers highlighted the dangers inherent in one-to-one contact or counselling with children. Heads were given guidelines both to protect staff from false accusations and to prevent physical and sexual abuse of pupils.

Gill Sage, the ATL's solicitor, said there had been a significant increase in the number of false allegations of child abuse by children against teachers in the last year. Staff were automatically suspended, and had no legal redress for their distress and anxiety when allegations were proved false.

Ms Sage told a seminar in Belfast that the Children Act was helping to prevent the worst forms of abuse. "But it seems to be a sad reflection upon society that an act which is so desperately needed by all children at risk can be such a dangerous weapon in the hands of the few."

The association is advising its members to withdraw from any potentially dangerous or exposed situations, not to have any form of physical contact, including comforting, with pupils, and even to refuse to take part in activities where they might find themselves alone with one or two pupils.

The act is due to be extended to Northern Ireland in the near future and Ms Sage, speaking at a union-organised seminar, warned teachers in the province "never be left alone or isolated with a pupil" once the act is in place. If a teacher had to be alone with a pupil the advice was "leave the door open".

The head teachers' guidelines cover all aspects of the care and control of pupils, and were drawn up in the light of last year's "pindown" affair at a Staffordshire children's home. David Hart, the NAHT's general secretary, said: "There are particular difficulties for staff in residential schools or in those dealing with severely handicapped pupils. Staff should be warned regularly about putting themselves in situations which might give rise to allegations of abuse."

Ecstasy gang 'signed Europe drugs treaty at Maastricht'

TWO crates of beer bottles filled with seven litres of the drug ecstasy in liquid form were found in the flat of a Dutch chemist who helped to manufacture the biggest haul of the substance ever seized in Britain, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Andrew Mitchell, for the prosecution, said that Peter Vukmirovic "became involved in the drugs scene and began organising the importation of liquid ecstasy from the Continent and arranging the drug's manufacture".

Mr Mitchell said that the meeting which started the operation was held in Maastricht. "At the same time that the European treaty at Maastricht was being struck, another deal was being struck for the importation, manufacture and supply of ecstasy," he said. Vukmirovic brought the liquid ecstasy into Britain in screw-top beer bottles, and two crates of them are alleged to have been found stored at his flat.

The chemist would now give evidence for the prosecution in the trial of five men and a woman accused of taking part in the ring, he said.

Police found 27.7 kilograms of the drug in powdered form — with an estimated street value of £7 million — after they arrested Vukmirovic, the court heard.

The defendants are Thomas Slater, 49, of Harrow, Gary Slater, 32, of Northolt, Zachary Slater, 26, and his wife Deborah Thain, 25, of Harrow, all in Middlesex; Ian Ring, 30, of Sutton, Surrey and Gary Eales, 32, of Romford, Essex.

They deny having plotted to smuggle, produce or supply the drug or assisting in the retention of the proceeds of drug trafficking.

Mr Mitchell told the court: "This was a very lucrative trade. Thomas Slater had something like £35,000 in cash in his car as he was leaving the country."

The gang intended to supply ecstasy to the whole of northern Europe, he said.

There was an abundance of supporting evidence. One witness had been asked to make dies in the shape of flying doves — ostensibly for the manufacture of buttons.

"These were not press stamps for buttons — the emblems on the ecstasy tablets were flying doves," said Mr Mitchell.

The prosecution alleges that the tablets were to have been sold at rave or Acid House parties.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Doctors plan first gene therapy trial

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S first gene therapy trial will take place within the next few weeks at Great Ormond Street hospital, London.

The patient is a child suffering from a congenital condition in which the body is unable to make a vital enzyme called adenosine deaminase (ADA). In the absence of the enzyme, toxic substances accumulate in the bloodstream and kill the lymphocytes, cells vital to the functioning of the immune system. Sufferers are vulnerable to infectious and usually die in childhood.

A team led by Dr Gareth Morgan, senior lecturer in immunology at the hospital, will carry out the therapy, for which approval was given on Tuesday by a government advisory committee chaired by Sir Cecil Clothier. The patient has not been named.

The treatment will involve removing bone marrow cells, modifying them in the laboratory by inserting into their genetic material the missing ADA gene, and replacing them. That should enable the patient to produce the enzyme, allowing the immune system to recover.

Dr Morgan said yesterday that the committee had approved a protocol for treating a specific patient. Doctors hope the single treatment will have long-lasting effects, unlike the American experiments, which altered blood cells only and needed to be repeated monthly.

The full benefit of gene therapy will come only when it is applied to more common genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis. A proposal to treat such patients has been made but has yet to be approved.



WITH THE TIMES TOMORROW

The Saturday Review

Tony Parsons on the power of *Clockwork Orange*

Sting: Alan Jackson meets the eco-hero of pop

The perpetual exile of the white African

Robin-Knox Johnston shares his gut feelings

AND

Ben Macintyre goes star-spotting in New York

Weekend Times

Paragliding on the wind and a prayer

AND

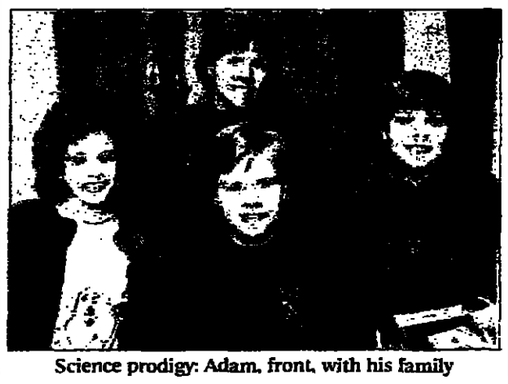
Caitlin Moran meets The Lemonheads

Boy aged 12 wins a place at Oxford

ADAM Dent may be starting a family tradition in winning a place at Oxford University at the age of 12 (John O'Leary writes). The science prodigy has to wait until 1994 before going to St Hugh's College to study chemistry. By then, his brother Geoffrey, 11 yesterday, will be on his way to A level and sister Emma, 9, could be contemplating GCSE.

St Hugh's, which awarded a place to Ruth Lawrence at the same age, wants to give Adam time to mature and brush up his English. Geoffrey will be even more mature, since he does not want to start university until the ripe old age of 16.

All three children were withdrawn from school four years ago, and taught at home by their mother, Jessie. When Adam had acquired four A-grade GCSEs in a year, he joined the sixth form at Aylesbury Grammar School, Buckinghamshire, at the age of ten.



Science prodigy: Adam, front, with his family

Short needs a draw for victory

NIGEL Short is a draw away from becoming world chess championship challenger after beating Jan Timman yesterday in the twelfth game of their final eliminator match.

Timman, of The Netherlands, resigned in a hopeless position after 46 moves and five hours 20 minutes' play to give Short an almost unassailable seven-five lead with two games to play. If Short wins he will take on Gary Kasparov, the world champion, this summer, becoming the first British challenger for the title.

Short arrived for the game armed with a packet of paper handkerchiefs. He is known to have suffered frequent head colds since childhood. He looked pale and disappointed after losing on Wednesday.

The game began with the same well-known open variation of the Ruy Lopez opening chosen by the players in the sixth and eighth rounds. Timman, playing black, varied from an earlier clash with Short at a Dutch tournament in 1988 with a wing pawn advance on his eleventh move.

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Why we mustn't lose sleep over insomnia

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

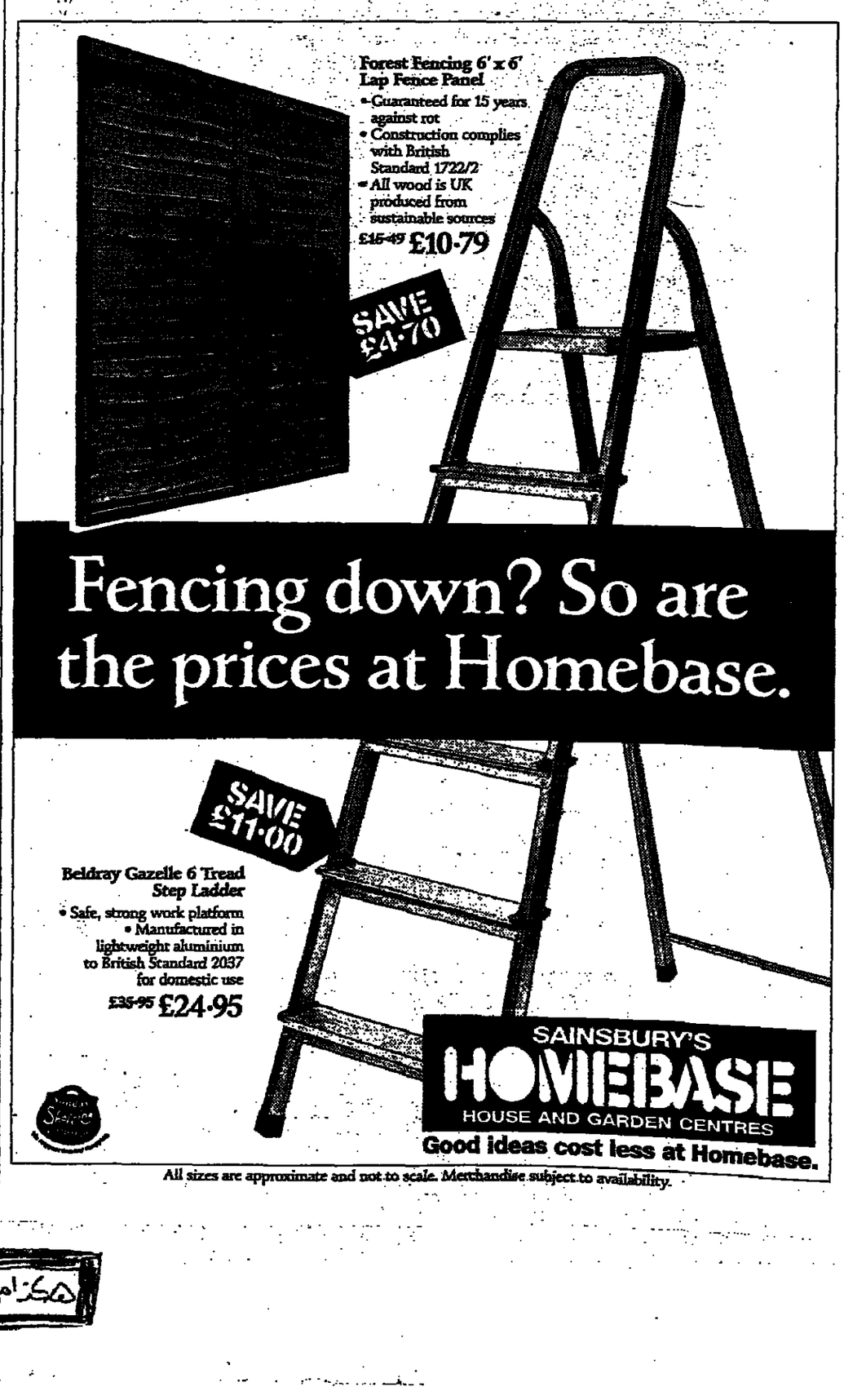
WORRYING about not getting enough sleep is a bigger problem than lack of sleep itself, psychiatrists said yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of a leaflet on sleep problems from the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Professor Arthur Crisp of St George's Hospital Medical School, south London, said that more than one in ten adults suffered from insomnia but criticised doctors for handing out too many sleeping pills. "They are too ready to prescribe hypnotics [sleeping pills] and are rightly condemned for it." Each new drug had new problems.

There are several dozen sleep disorders and research in the area is growing. But the need for sleep varies widely and most disorders are rare. Most adults need seven to eight hours sleep a night but some manage on only three.

Professor Crisp said that some sleep disorders, such as sleepwalking which affects one in 100 adults, can endanger the sleeper and their families. "They are suddenly aroused out of a deep sleep to a situation akin to wakefulness. They can become aggressive and may harm themselves by putting their hands through windows or falling downstairs."

☐ *Sleep problems* (Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG; free with SAE)



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Police seek two men after spate of bloody attacks on horses

By Lin Jenkins

POLICE hunting the people responsible for a spate of sexual assaults on horses, which has left one dead and others badly mutilated, yesterday issued a photo-fit picture of one suspect and a description of another.

Hampshire police believe the first man was also responsible for an attack on a cow which was later destroyed because of the extent of her injuries.

Det. Supt Peter Long said that he believed more than one person was responsible for the attacks in the county. There have been 23 in Hampshire since January last year. Buckinghamshire police are dealing with half a dozen so far this year and there is a similar number being investigated in other parts of the country.

The first suspect was described as white, about 5ft 7in tall and of medium build, with mousy-coloured curly hair. He was clean shaven and wearing a three-quarter-length anorak with white slip-on shoes and appeared to be carrying a white holdall when he was seen.

The second suspect, said to be 60 to 70 years of age, was white, 5ft 3in with a ruddy complexion and grey hair. He was seen interfering with a mare in a field at Alton in March 1991 while wearing a blue donkey-jacket and a white peaked hat with khaki strips. He had two black and white Border collie dogs with him.

Police also released details of a knife found near a field in Park Gate, near Southampton, where a Shetland pony was attacked last July. The wooden-handled kitchen knife has a broken blade tip and a sticky-taped handle.

Police, psychiatrists and the equestrian fraternity believe the offenders are used to handling horses. Horses have been attacked with knives, axes and broom handles and had their sexual organs mutilated. Corrosive substances have been used on some of the mares and one was injured with an airgun.

Det. Supt Long said: "I'm clear in my own mind these attacks are not confined to one individual. There may be yet another, or a series of people, although that is not to say one individual may not be responsible for several attacks."

He said researchers from Leicester University had offered to do an offender profile. "If as a result of the enquiries a pattern arises which may assist them, we will ask for their assistance."

He rejected the notion that the attacks had links with witchcraft.

Horse and Hound magazine yesterday added £1,000 to the £17,000 already offered as rewards for information leading to a conviction.

The Hampshire police operation has been named after the mare who died, Motinbatten, a bay Irish hunter who probably died of shock when attacked in her stable at the home of her owner Robert Broderick, at Four Marks, near Alton. The results of blood tests following a post-mortem examination are expected to show whether she was drugged.

Sergeant Keith Deakin of Hampshire police, quoted in the magazine, appealed to horse owners and their veterinary surgeons to call the police immediately as some had delayed for 24 hours. "Forensically, we are on a non-starter when the public phones us when their horse has been stitched, the blood cleared up and all traces of evidence removed. I have to say some vets are also negligent in delaying an important call to the police."

⊡ Horse owners in Saffron Walden, Essex, have set up a horsewatch scheme similar to a neighbourhood watch, to help protect their animals.



Suspect: police are looking for this man



TIM BISHOP

Shattered: wrecked shop windows at Harrods after an IRA bomb exploded outside the store yesterday

Four hurt by IRA blast at Harrods

By James Landale

FOUR people were injured when an IRA bomb exploded outside Harrods, London, yesterday, nine years after a bomb killed six at the store.

The bomb went off at 9.40am, 20 minutes before opening. Staff were searching the building after two coded telephone warnings had been received. Ground and first-floor windows on Brompton Road were blown out but there was little damage inside.

Staff called the police at 9.14am after receiving a coded warning. The Samaritans were also told of two devices in the store. The bomb was believed to have been placed in a litter bin. Four ground-floor windows on either side of the door and three first-floor windows were shattered.

A man and a woman were taken to Charing Cross Hospital with ear damage and cuts. They were later discharged. A Harrods window dresser suffered cuts on his leg and forearm and a Harrods contractor was hurt but did not receive treatment.

Clarke to appoint prison ombudsman

An independent ombudsman will be appointed in April to examine prisoners' grievances, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, announced yesterday. The ombudsman will be empowered to examine complaints from inmates in public and private sector prisons, but will not have authority to examine prisoners' complaints about the courts, the police or parole boards.

Mr Clarke said the post had been created to help prisoners who had failed to get satisfaction from the existing internal prison complaints system. "The ombudsman will be able to consider the merits of cases as well as the procedures involved. He or she will make recommendations to the chief executive of the prison service, and to myself as necessary," he said. Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "This is a significant step towards a fairer prison system."

EC grant hopes

The Highlands and Islands region and Merseyside could qualify for new grants if proposals to change the rules for the European Community structural fund go ahead. Within the United Kingdom, only Northern Ireland qualifies under the current rules, by which areas with gross domestic product less than 75 per cent of the Community average are entitled to a share of the £22.8 billion fund. The European Commission is examining proposals to include regions close to the qualifying threshold, such as the Highlands and Islands, on 79 per cent. Some MEPs argue that job losses in the offshore construction industry may mean that the area qualifies under existing rules.

Verdict on train death

The parents of a teenager killed when she drove into the path of a train on a level crossing called yesterday for British Rail to examine its safety measures after an inquest in Wokingham, Berkshire, returned a verdict of accidental death. Elizabeth Arnold, 17, is believed to have been blinded by sunlight as she approached the crossing. Witnesses gave conflicting evidence on whether the barriers had come down in time to warn her that a train was approaching. A signals inspector who examined the crossing after the accident said he could find no fault with the barriers or warning signals. Peter Arnold, Elizabeth's father, said: "BR must look at its safety standards."

Bomb kills workman

A Roman Catholic workman was killed yesterday by a booby-trap bomb believed to have been planted by Loyalists at a bungalow he was helping to build at Kildress near Cookstown, co. Tyrone. Another workman was injured by the blast, which was triggered by a door being opened, and a second bomb was found on the site. The victim, a 25-year-old married man with two children from Swatragh, co. Londonderry, is believed to be the first person to be killed by a Loyalist bomb in about ten years.

Van seen near murder

Police investigating the murder of the Claire Tiltman, 16, in Greenhithe, Kent, are trying to trace the driver of a vehicle seen near the alleyway from which she staggered bleeding after the attack. The vehicle, a light-coloured van or hatchback, was seen parked badly on a junction, but disappeared within minutes.

Religious novices quit

Almost half the men who enter religious orders drop out after their first two years, according to a survey in the *Catholic Herald*. Of 691 people who entered orders over the past 12 years, 48 per cent of men and 36 per cent of women left. The main difficulties were loneliness and institutional life, especially for those under 40.

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50,000 Britons to take part in £9m study of diet and cancer links

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

A ten year Europe-wide project to determine the link between cancer and what we eat is launched today in Scotland

BRITISH doctors will today begin recruiting 50,000 volunteers for the world's largest investigation into links between diet and cancer. The £9 million Europe-wide study, due to last ten years, will start in Scotland, where doctors will ask 10,000 patients to participate.

The European Prospective Investigation of Cancer will look at the diets of 250,000 people across Europe. It is backed by the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which is contributing a large part of the £1.25 million cost of recruiting volunteers in Britain. The European Community is providing a further £315,000.

The project will look in particular at possible links between breast and bowel cancer and vitamins, fibre and fat. It will also evaluate the long-term risks and benefits of hormone replacement therapy. Research suggests that 35 per cent of deaths from cancer could be avoided by diet changes and the figure could be considerably higher.

Dr Tim Key, a scientist with the research fund's Oxford unit, said diet is the single most important cause of cancer, more significant than smoking, viruses or radiation. "We know that eating fruit and vegetables appears to reduce the risk of bowel cancer," he said.

"We don't know how a high fat diet affects the incidence of cancer. It may be irrelevant or it may be important."

Scotland's 1,700 GPs will be asked to recruit 10,000 patients aged between 40 and 59. Initially 30,000 female patients will be recruited, half of them users of hormone replacement therapy. Patients will be asked to fill in a questionnaire in which they will be asked how often they ate a selection of foods in the past 12 months.

Blood samples will be taken and stored for up to ten years at very low temperatures in liquid nitrogen to allow later analysis. Patients will be asked to fill in a diary of everything they eat.

The study will allow researchers to examine the diets of apparently healthy patients who later develop cancer. Doctor Phil Hannaford, a fund research fellow, acknowledged that people tended to eat more healthily when they were asked to fill in a diary but said that the blood samples and the questionnaire would help to overcome some of the biases.

Patients will be asked to fill in another diary in two to three years' time and GPs will report on their health every year.

The study will run for a minimum of ten years and initial recruitment will not be completed until 1995. The first results will be published two to three years later but the results will become more detailed and informative with the passage of time.

Dr Alastair Donald, president of the GPs' college, said the organisers had decided to enlist the help of Scottish doctors first because they were keen to help such research. Scotland has 15,000 deaths from cancer each year and researchers believe that 35 per cent of them could be prevented by diet changes.

Scotland has a particularly high incidence of bowel cancer and doctors believe that up to 1,563 deaths a year, 90 per cent of the total, could be avoided if people's diets were changed.


CHRIS HARRIS

Bird's-eye view: the Snowdon aviary is one of the buildings featured in a book about architecture at London zoo (Marcus Binney writes). Publication of the illustrated book today coincides with presentation to the government of a £21 million plan for the zoo's renovation over ten years. Dr Jo Gipps, zoo director, said: "We know many people and organisations are interested in these buildings, and we want to find sympathetic uses and avoid long-drawn-out planning enquiries." Under the plan, the controversial Mappin terraces will become an open-air gorilla enclosure, giving them a much larger habitat. The Snowdon aviary, designed by Lord Snowdon, Frank Newby and Cedric Price and opened in 1964, has has been praised by zoo staff. Paul Harrington, senior keeper of birds, said: "The birds are much fitter and hardier than in smaller aviaries." Lord Snowdon said: "It has survived well, despite minimal maintenance."

☐ *The Buildings Of London Zoo, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England. £12.95*

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French rail chief threatens to sue over BR privatisation

By Tim Jones, Transport Correspondent

THE government has been warned that privatisation of British Rail could bring a claim for damages from SNCF, the French national railway company, if the move cuts the volume of freight traffic through the Channel tunnel.

Alain Poinssot, SNCF's director of freight, claims that the plans are creating "an extremely destabilising climate of uncertainty" for freight operators, particularly in Britain.

He has told members of the Commons transport committee that the proposal to dismantle British Rail and establish Railtrack as the company responsible for the track, signalling and infrastructure will kill competitiveness with road transport.

Mr Poinssot says in a letter that the plan to make Railtrack a self-financing company was "completely discriminatory" because in the competing road transport market, infrastructure costs were largely assumed by the community as a whole.

Railtrack, as envisaged, would stop the two national rail companies from reaching the Euro-tunnel traffic targets on which they had based their financial commitments. "The financial consequences of this state of affairs would be serious for SNCF, which would be entitled to ask itself where responsibility lay for the change in circumstances since the original agreements were signed."

In another development, the Labour party said yesterday that a leaked Whitehall document raised doubts about cheap fare deals and other benefits for passengers after privatisation.

It denounced as "devastating and disgraceful" the contents of the leaked dossier, said to be a top-level transport department document detailing the effects of privatisation.

Brian Wilson, shadow transport minister, said the document declared that discounts on through-ticketing "should not be imposed" on private operators and they could not be expected to sell tickets for services other than their own because this "runs contrary to commercial interests."

Private rail operators, the document says, should decide what timetable information to make available and in what form, and should be free to opt in or out of accepting rail warrants on the basis of commercial decisions.

Private operators, it says, might choose to retain Railcards for the disabled "for the public relations benefit".

Mr Wilson said that he would send a copy to every Tory MP "to ensure that even the thickest-skinned of them are in no doubt about what they will be asked to vote for".

Huntsman dies in castle lake

A man hunting geese at Leeds Castle near Maidstone, Kent, drowned when he tried to rescue his dog, which had fallen into a lake and was dragged through a sluice gate. A castle spokesman said the man, who has not been named, was hunting with a local farmer to cull the large numbers of Canada geese which were causing a nuisance in the grounds.

"His dog ran off and got into difficulty in the fast flowing water. The man went into the water too, unaware that there are strong undercurrents. He was dragged down to the sluice gate and sadly drowned," the spokesman said.

"Water flows through the sluice into the moat, but there is a difference of 10ft in height between the two waters, and this creates a high pressure." The victim's dog was later pulled alive from the moat.

War burial

A second world war pilot is to be buried in Calvados, France, next week, nearly 50 years after he was shot down in a dogfight over Normandy. The remains of RNVR Lt Arthur Beane's Spitfire were found last autumn when the smell of petrol noticed by a farmer whenever he ploughed a field was investigated.

Hit and run

Adam Birch, 5, was seriously ill in hospital after being struck by a hit-and-run driver while crossing a road at St Mary's, Southampton, near his home. A man was arrested after police traced a Morris Ital car.

Oil spill sighted

The transport department's Marine Pollution Control Unit is investigating a mile-long oil slick off the Cornish coast after it was reported by a navy minesweeper. Coastguards are unable to trace its origin.

Hair today ...

A High Court judge appeared bareheaded in court in Cardiff after his wig was stolen from his chambers overnight. Mr Justice Macpherson appealed: "If any good citizen sees anyone wearing a judge's wig, they should inform my clerk."

Rifle accident

A 74-year-old gun enthusiast accidentally shot himself in the stomach during a target practise session at a rifle club in Monmouth, Gwent.

Pole positioned

Thieves in Leigh, Kent, tied a scaffold pole to the front of a car and rammed a shop to steal antique clocks worth £200,000.

Alcohol banned

A ban on drinking alcohol in public is being imposed in Salisbury, Wiltshire. Offenders could be fined up to £100.

20 million with HIV in two years

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

BY 1995 almost 20 million people will have been infected with HIV, the virus responsible for Aids, a new report says. At the end of 1992 13 million had been infected, of whom 2·5 million had died from Aids-related illnesses.

But resources to deal with the worsening epidemic have begun to decline. In 1991, money provided by wealthy nations for prevention and control of the virus in the developing world decreased for the first time.

Professor Jonathan Mann, who compiled the report *Aids in the World* with other specialists at Harvard University, said there is "a clear and dangerous gap between the accelerating epidemic and efforts against HIV/Aids around the world".

Third of nation faces poverty, says Shelter

By John Young

BRITAIN is turning into a society in which two thirds of the population have homes, jobs and comfortable living standards while the rest face despair and deprivation, Sheila McKechnie, director of the charity Shelter, said yesterday.

Criticising the lack of a political will to seek solutions to the problems of the inner cities, she said that all indicators showed a growing divide between the haves and the have-nots.

As one of the world's richer societies, Britain appeared to be unable to come up with strategies and solutions to end the poverty on its doorstep. Urban regeneration accounted for a mere 0.3 per cent of public spending.

"That is not the kind of fundamental commitment that is needed," she said. "I can hardly bear to think of living in a society in which a third of its members are virtually excluded from all activity."

Ms McKechnie was speaking at the presentation of the Jameson Award to Jackie Haq, 36, a mother of five, for her efforts to revitalise the Scotswood estate in Newcastle upon Tyne, for which she was awarded the MBE.

The estate had been one of the most deprived in Britain. In the late 1980s the number of empty properties there rose from 75 to about 500 and more than half the remaining residents had been unemployed for more than two years.

There had been a failure of leadership at all levels from the government downwards, and local leaders in communities facing hardship and poverty, such as Jackie Haq, were all too rare, she said.

Country Walks (1)

The way it isn't



I HAVE always enjoyed my country walks with Mr Michael Howard, but never more so than yesterday.

"I see you've brought your dog," I said as we met.

"Absolutely not," he replied. "There are no plans under consideration to bring my dog — or for that matter anybody else's dog!" He grinned one of his reassuring grins.

"But what's that?" I countered, pointing to a dog on the end of the lead he held in his hand.

"Let's look at the broad outline of your suggestion in relation to prevailing conditions," he replied. "But first, let's consider what most people admit is my impressive record of going for a walk without a dog. For instance, only last November, I walked without a dog, and then again ..."

"But you have a dog now!" I replied. "I can see it!"

Once more, he gave a broad, bemused smile. "I don't think you invited me here to get bogged down in rumour and counter-rumour of whether or not there is a dog with me.

"Frankly, there are far more important considerations to discuss. For instance — where are we going to walk? As you know, I welcome all comments."

"Let's go the lake" I said.

"An excellent suggestion," he replied. "So the castle it is!"

"But I said the lake!"

"I have taken the broad thrust of your suggestion on board, but quite honestly, try as one might, one simply can't satisfy every single person in these matters," he replied.

"You know, Michael," I said as we trudged our way towards the castle, "you're not always as straightforward as you claim."

"As I've long maintained, I am more than willing to set up a government enquiry to look into these matters," he replied, giving his dog a cheery pat.

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Military illusions shattered again by harsh economic realities

So once again a British Government faces the old and as yet never solved problem of the disparity between the role Britain thinks it ought to play in the world, and the size of the armed forces which a sluggardly economy can pay for.

In the 1920s and 1930s our membership of the League of Nations, supported by the idealistic internationalists of the time, imposed on us an unlimited obligation to preserve peace anywhere in the world. To discharge this obligation effectively would have meant keeping armed forces far larger than necessary for defending the Empire, itself a military burden on the United Kingdom rather than an asset.

The slump-ridden state of the British economy in the 1920s and early 1930s instead compelled cuts in the armed forces. This made it militarily impossible to intervene in the case of Japanese aggression in Manchuria in 1931, and far too militarily risky to prevent Italian aggression against Ethiopia in 1935-36 at a time when Britain already faced a resurgent German threat in north-west Europe.

British diplomacy was reduced merely to denouncing the aggressors, as today it denounces the Serbs. In neither Manchuria nor Ethiopia was any direct British interest threatened. Our impotent quixotry merely served to conjure up a triple threat to the Empire from Germany, Italy and Japan — a threat which we could not hope to parry with the size of armed forces that the British economy could afford.

By 1939 Chamberlain's high-minded policy of appeasement had delivered Czechoslovakia to Hitler and so destroyed the strategic balance of Europe. That spring the Chiefs of Staff warned that we could only win a war if it were a long one, while the Treasury pronounced we could only afford a war if it were a short one.

Here, stated in its most acute form, was the British 20th century dilemma of strategic overstretch. We all know the pay-off: national bankruptcy by spring 1941 and the collapse of the Empire in the Far East and Pacific in 1941-42 because British armed forces were already strained to the limit fighting wars against Germany and Italy.

Cabinet papers for the late 1940s and 1950s make it plain that, incredibly, neither the Labour government nor its Conservative successor had learned anything from the lessons of the 1920s and 1930s, but instead both were determined to reassume and perpetuate Britain's traditional world and Commonwealth role.

Yet from 1946 onwards Labour and Conservative chancellors warned that the frail state of the economy and fragile balance of payments meant we could not afford the armed forces and overseas deployments necessary to discharge these roles.

From the 1940s to the 1990s governments have proved unwilling to go back to first principles and define what were the direct strategic and material interests of the United Kingdom as a medium-sized European country. Instead there have been piecemeal retreats from global and Commonwealth deployments under pressure of balance of payments crises, together with salami-slicing of the armed forces to try to bridge the gap between military commitments and financial resources. The result has been the severe overstretch from which the armed forces have chronically suffered, and which has been freshly accepted in *Options for Fudge* — sorry, *Change*.

As Herbert Morrison prophetically warned his Labour cabinet colleagues in 1949, Britain has been paying more than she can afford for armed forces that are not strong enough to fulfil the extended roles assigned to them.

What is appalling is that after the end of the Cold war, which so fundamentally transformed our strategic situation, we are still failing to go back to first principles and decide on the United Kingdom's own direct security and economic interests, and their order of priority in terms of military investment.

Just as in the 1920s and 1930s we are allowing ourselves to be swayed by a large and vociferous liberal lobby of romantic idealists who believe Britain should turn out diplomatically and militarily in a blue beret to prevent or sort out quarrels anywhere in the world.

In a sentence, they believe that national policy should be founded on a sense of public duty rather than on strategy and interest, as Clausewitz or Bismarck or Palmerston or de Gaulle would have understood it.

We have already been sucked into the hopeless confusions of the former Yugoslavia, and have just upped our investment by one of our three aircraft carriers. Yet the quarrels of Bosnians, Croats and Serbs are absolutely nothing to do with us, and in no sense threaten our security.

Now that the new American administration is pressing us to commit ourselves even more heavily, we even have to ask whether our membership of the UN Security Council is becoming more of a burdensome obligation than a diplomatic asset. It hardly makes sense for us to "pull more than our weight" in the UN when Britain is running an annual balance of payment deficit of £12 billion and a public spending deficit of about £50 billion.

Now, therefore, is surely the time to define in real hard-nosed terms the likely future direct threats to the security of the United Kingdom and what proportion of GNP we can really afford to spend on defence. Then we can design a strategy to promote our own future survival and prosperity as part of Europe rather than to pursue fantasies like "the new world order".

CORRELLI BARNETT

The author is a historian and fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge

Army overstretched by the world-wide call to arms

BY BILL FROST

■ The empire is long gone but Britain's hard-pressed forces are still to be found in more than a dozen far-flung locations

DESPITE a present defence budget of £24 billion and nearly 285,000 men and women serving with the armed forces, there is great unease among military planners and officers about casting Britain in the role of world policeman.

Speaking last month in the sandbagged basement of a UN barracks in Kiseljak, central Bosnia, a high-ranking British officer told *The Times* that he would need "tens of thousands" of men to part the combatants. He said the army was already stretched to the limit across the world and further commitment to present or future conflict would be disastrous.

Almost 2,500 troops are in Bosnia providing protection for humanitarian aid convoys, which has already cost the life on one soldier. A further 330 troops are on stand-by aboard the vessels in the *Ark Royal* flotilla which arrived in the Adriatic earlier this week.

The army's current strength is more than 140,000, with 16,625 officers and 123,646 enlisted men and women, about half of whom are based in Britain. About 46,000 troops are stationed in Germany. The British Army of the Rhine, once deployed against the Warsaw Pact nations, has become the main element of Nato's rapid reaction force.

There are more than 19,000 troops serving in Northern Ireland. Recent reports suggest that the number in the province may be about to increase. The 4,600 soldiers in Hong Kong will continue to guard the colony until China takes over in 1997.

Peacekeeping duties in Cyprus require 3,900 troops on the green line between Greek and Turkish forces. British troops also provide security for Middle East monitoring posts on the island. Infantry and artillery battalions are stationed in Belize. A total of 1,200 troops are deployed to protect the central American state from the territorial ambitions of neighbouring Guatemala.

In spite of the thaw in relations between London and Buenos Aires, 500 British troops remain in the Falklands. The commitment to preserving the islands' sovereignty is described as open-ended. Other commitments include 700 men providing security and military training for the Sultan of Brunei's forces and 130 troops on Gibraltar.

Much smaller British Army contingents are to be found in Cambodia, Turkey, Sinai, Namibia and the western Sahara. They range in strength from ten to 50 men, mainly deployed as observers on former frontlines.

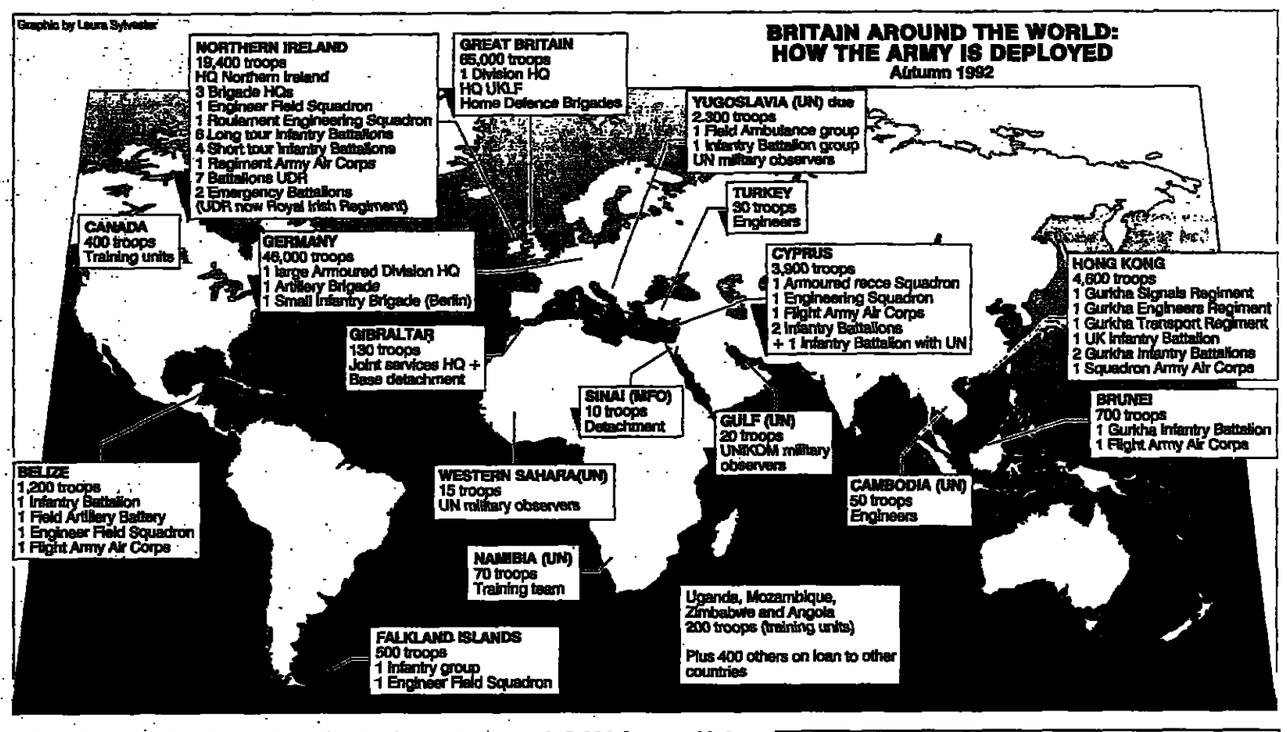
MPs on the all-party Commons defence committee are due to tell the government to think again about the cuts proposed in *Options for Change*. These would see the army shrink from its present strength to 116,000, with infantry battalions reduced from 55 to 38 by 1995.

Those seeking increased military commitment suggest that the heads of the armed services are crying wolf, and point to the more active role in world peacekeeping the French appear prepared to accept. But a comparison of military capability shows that France may be hard pressed to match ambition with action in Bosnia. Although its army totals 261,000 men and women, more than half are conscripts who would not usually be sent to a war zone. In addition, President Mitterrand's government is trying to cut defence costs.

Colonel Andrew Duncan of the International Institute for Strategic Studies yesterday supported the military chiefs. He pointed out that in the run-up to the proposed cuts, regiments were not being kept at full strength. "If one could say that the war in Bosnia would be over within the year, then the government and the service chiefs might be willing to commit more men. The trouble is that the war shows no sign of drawing to a close. If you deploy troops they have to be reinforced. You cannot keep that up indefinitely."

However, Colonel Duncan said British forces could play a more decisive role in the conflict, despite the proposed cuts. "There is no need to commit large numbers of infantrymen. It would be much more helpful to the UN if we could provide more military specialists — sappers and signallers.

"There is no shortage of infantrymen among the other nations, but we have the skilled logistics people that are required," he said.



Leading article, page 15

Dwindling forces try to fight off peace crusaders

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

DOUGLAS Hurd's remarks on the overstretching of the British armed forces could have come straight from the French ministry of defence. Like the British, the French military and their defenders believe that budget cuts are leaving the armed forces dangerously ill-equipped to perform the global peacekeeping tasks that the politicians are increasingly foisting upon them.

Before Christmas, Pierre Joxe, the defence minister, made no secret of his opposition to France joining the United States in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. The army was already too thin on the ground, he told the cabinet. President Mitterrand ruled in favour of the case put by Bernard Kouchner, the health and humanitarian affairs minister who has led a popular crusade in favour of military relief operations.

Under planned defence cuts, France's semi-conscript army is due to lose 25,000 of its 300,000 men and women in the next three years. Similar reductions are planned for the navy and air force, which total 71,000 and 97,000 respectively.

The French services also include 77,000 employed in supplying and administering the military and the 91,000 members of the Gendarmerie, the para-military police. Of the total 634,000 French forces, 297,000 are professional, 224,000 are doing national service and 112,000 are civilian.

Despite extensive new investment, the services are also worried about ageing weapons, aircraft and vessels. During the Gulf war it was discovered that French warplanes were not suited for the missions entrusted to them. The aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* is so notoriously old-fashioned that, when it was sent to the Adriatic this week, newspapers carried cartoons of leaky tubs and sailors towing it behind a pedalo.

French troops are engaged in more foreign operations than those of any country except the United States. In addition to 25,000 in Germany, 40,000 are taking part in eight United Nations operations

[redacted]

and 14 others under bilateral defence agreements.

While public opinion is strongly in favour of peacekeeping and humanitarian missions, particularly in the former Yugoslavia, many senior officers are complaining that such work imposes an unacceptable burden. The impotence of the French contingent in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina has highlighted the frustrations of peacemonitoring.

Pierre Dabezies, a former paratroop officer and ambassador, said in *Le Monde* that the armed forces were being asked to carry out too many "military-humanitarian" operations with ill-defined goals. These all risked ending with "no alternative to either leaving without accomplishing the mission or engaging in muscular reaction which is beyond our reach".

Admiration tempered by pity

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S generals look with both pity and admiration at the British army, whose methods of fighting helped to create the region's foremost military superpower.

Although most senior Israeli officers have little but praise for British professionalism, they are often bewildered by what they regard as our anachronistic regimental traditions. Above all, Israeli soldiers like to believe that the practical necessities of war are placed before marching bands, dress uniforms and parade ground etiquette.

Reserve troops make up two thirds of the 500,000-strong force, and teenage conscripts

[redacted]

routinely call generals by their first names. "We only have one military band in the whole Israeli army," said one colonel, adding that although elite combat forces such as the paratroop brigade could not perform drill properly, they knew how to fight.

However, the Israeli army also suffers from inefficiency and overspending and many officers privately feel that it is far too large for its defence needs. The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, recently began a campaign to trim staff jobs and bureaucracy to divert funds to the combat units.

The cost of modern military equipment and training soldiers is such that most top pilots today are, like in the RAF, professional regular service officers, while reservists often find themselves doing menial office duties or policing the occupied territories.

One soldier said: "One day, if we ever have peace, I imagine the Israel Defence Force will become like any other professional army in a democratic country. When that happens we will probably end up much like the British and American armies today."

Role in UN operations adds weight to demands for a reprieve by Major

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Conservative MPs yesterday predicted that John Major will be forced to save some of the regiments threatened with cuts because of fresh pressure to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping forces.

Despite an admission by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that British forces are already stretched to meet existing commitments, Downing Street officials say that the planned cut in army manpower of 40,000, leaving a total of 116,000 by 1995, is justified.

However, senior defence sources do not rule out a reprieve for some regiments if Britain faces large additional commitments, possibly in Bosnia.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, has always left open scope for reprieving some regiments, or battalions, if there is "undue pressure" on Britain's armed forces. He has told colleagues that he does not believe his forces are overstretched at present. But he concedes that, if Britain takes on any more commitments to provide a large military force, for example, to police new borders in Bosnia, then he must think again. Mr Rifkind has also indicated that he would not need extra Treasury funds to preserve existing regiments, but could switch money from other parts of his £24 billion annual budget.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, the Conservative chairman of the Commons defence committee, said yesterday he believes some threatened regiments must be saved.

"I think the government will find itself having to agree to at least reversing some of the changes proposed under *Options for Change*," he said on BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*.

"It is no secret that we are profoundly unhappy at the impact of *Options for Change*, particularly on the effect on the infantry."

The admission from defence chiefs that Britain turned down a request to contribute to the UN's mission to Somalia underlined the imbalance, he added.

With experts' talking of 72 potential flashpoints around the world, extra demands for Britain to contribute to more UN peacekeeping forces were likely.

Menzies Campbell, the committee's Liberal Democrat MP, called for a fresh analysis into Britain's future obligations. In 1990, when the cuts from 55 to 38 regiments were drawn up, nobody assumed Britain was going to be asked to provide forces for UN peace-keeping missions, he said.

The committee's unanimous report on the British army in the 1990s, to be published on February 9, will call for a moratorium on mergers.

That could save regiments listed for amalgamations or cuts, such as The Queen's Own Highlanders, which is to merge with The Gordon Highlanders next year.

It is understood that the MPs will warn ministers: "Cosmic overstretch will be the normal state of affairs unless the government's proposal are modified."

The report will say that the defence ministry is breaking its own code by reducing the two-year time gap between tours in Northern Ireland to 15 or 13 months. Morale in army families is also being badly affected, according to the committee.

CHRIS HARRIS



Way forward: UK troops maintaining Bosnian routes

Detectives fly to the Falklands

BY IAN MURRAY

TWO senior Scotland Yard detectives fly to the Falkland Islands on Tuesday to continue an investigation into claims that British paratroops killed Argentine prisoners in the 1982 war.

Det Supt Alec Edwards and Det Insp David Shipperlee will spend four days in the Falklands, visiting the location of the alleged killings and meeting civilian and military authorities to discover whether there are witnesses to what happened during the battle for Mount Longdon, the bloodiest action in the war.

The claims were made in a book, *Excursion to Hell*, written by Vincent Bramley, a lance corporal in the 3rd Paratroop Regiment during the battle. He writes of a fellow soldier who said that he was ordered to shoot three prisoners found to be American mercenaries.

Scotland Yard began investigating in August after the army asked civilian authorities to take over an enquiry started by the Royal Military Police. The 3rd Paratroop Regiment, stationed at Aldershot, has promised to co-operate. Police have not decided whether to seek out survivors of the battle in Argentina.

Cold war replaced by an outbreak of violent flashpoints

BY BILL FROST

THE era of world peace expected as the threat of nuclear war receded with the collapse of the Soviet empire has conspicuously failed to arrive. Ancient hatreds have resurfaced along with greedy territorial ambitions as the old order has made way for new uncertainty.

According to a survey by *Jane's Defence Weekly* there are 26 wars currently being fought which involve two or more countries or where armed insurrection threatens an internationally-recognised government. There are also 23 areas of possible conflict, where ethnic tension or expansionist aspirations could lead to violent confrontation. The survey also detects growing tension in 24 locations. This brings to 73 the total number of flashpoints at the start of 1993.

"The major international concern will be determining whether peacemaking will replace peacekeeping as a primary international method of resolving disputes," said Jane's, whose analysts divided the world into eight regions for the survey.

It suggests that Albania may be dragged into the conflict between Bosnia and Croatia in the former Yugoslavia, in order to protect Muslims in Kosovo.

A second threat is identified in Macedonia with increased tension between Serbia, Albania, Greece and Bulgaria.

Former Soviet republics have already witnessed all-out war, notably Tajikistan where militia continue to

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fight each other and Russian peacekeeping forces. In Kazakhstan there have been clashes involving Tatars and Muslim fundamentalists.

In the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave more than 3,000 people have died in three years of fighting between Armenian and Azeri forces. Secessionists continue their war against the Tblisi government in Georgia.

The Turkish army has continued its offensive against the Marxist PKK in Kurdistan. According to Jane's there is now a risk that Iranian Kurds may be brought into the conflict.

Civil war will erupt once more in Angola, says the survey. The newly-elected MPLA government will be pitted against Unita forces in the north, south and east of the country, it predicts.

Jane's survey also warns that the use of chemical weapons has increased in Angola, Afghanistan and Cambodia during the past year. "However, the most serious non-conventional threat is probably biological weapons, which are simple to build and deploy yet uncontrollable in affect," the survey says.

According to Jane's there are three other main concerns as 1993 begins: the proliferation of ballistic missile technology from Iran to North Korea; the increasing ability of drug barons to undermine elected governments from the Middle East to Latin America; and the migration of ethnic refugees from the former Soviet bloc to western Europe.

The survey points out that such migration has already caused a violent backlash in Germany, with the strengthening of neo-Nazi groups. "There is the risk that France and other European countries will suffer the same problems."



'What on earth does it take for a minister to resign from this government?'

Hard-hitting Smith accuses the cabinet of 'arrogance'

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith last night delivered a scathing attack on the government's conduct, accusing ministers and civil servants of arrogance, insensitivity and partiality.

In a hard-hitting speech the Labour leader picked off one cabinet minister after another, claiming they had misled Parliament, acted illegally, and betrayed the public. He suggested that impartiality was being compromised in Whitehall and called for a new code of conduct setting out the roles and responsibilities of ministers and civil servants.

Using a keynote address to Labour businessmen and economists at the Institute of Civil Engineers, Mr Smith set out his ideas for constitutional reform and addressed criticism of his bland leadership. He trawled over the errors, retreats and deception which he claimed had marked the first ten months of this parliament.

A sense of responsibility and honour had been replaced by personal survival at all costs, he argued in his most forceful speech since taking over as leader. While not naming John Major, he made it clear he considered that the prime minister had no control over his cabinet. With uncharacteristic bluntness Mr Smith accused Michael Heseltine of breaking the law over the pit debacle and rebuked the Chancellor for allowing the taxpayer to fund his legal fees and for his failed economic policy.

Mr Heseltine, "totally discredited and humiliated", should have resigned after the High Court judgment that the pit closures were illegal. Norman Lamont, equally damaged, should have resigned after Black Wednesday as a matter of honour. "I have nothing personal against the Chancellor who ... has to be admired for his staying power. But these are matters of national concern. Mr Lamont's entire economic policy has been a complete failure."

In the past ministers resigned when policies failed but now no ministers took responsibility for their actions, Mr Smith said.

"They mislead Parliament, break the law, they jettison policies which once formed the cornerstone of their entire programme, they use public money to pay private legal bills, they are forced into retreat by the anger of the British people and nobody takes reponsibility," he said. "One is forced to ask the question: what on earth does it take for a minister to resign from this government?"

The Matrix Churchill affair had shown that senior ministers had knowingly misled Parliament over the government's policy on selling arms to Iraq, Mr Smith claimed. "The affair sharply exposed ministers sliding about, running for cover, giving false answers, ducking their duty to Parliament and behaving in an altogether shabby way."

The arrogance of power had led to more serious consequences, he said. It had become standard practice for Tory politicians to move from the cabinet to senior positions in privatised industries. Similarly, senior civil servants increasingly passed from top jobs in Whitehall to top jobs in industry connected with their former departments.

The government did not have the public's support on most of its policies, including pit closures, rail privatisation, unemployment, training and the economy. The electorate gave the government the benefit of the doubt last April. "But since then they have done nothing but break promise after promise. And in the process they have conducted themselves with an arrogance and insensitivity which has appalled the nation."

Turning to the civil service Mr Smith criticised the effect of single-party rule on Whitehall. "Many senior civil servants have never worked under another political party or another political philosophy." Their impartiality was now being compromised, leading to poor judgment, he claimed. He questioned evidence from Sir Peter Middleton, former permanent secretary at the Treasury, and his successor Sir Terry Burns, to the public accounts committee over the fact that the Treasury had contributed to Mr Lamont's legal bill. "The fact that the two men ... could see no impropriety in what they had done is in itself revealing," he said.

The behaviour of officials in the Matrix Churchill affair, trying to circumvent official guidelines, was equally questionable, he said.

"A government that cannot tell the difference between party interest and the national interest has missed a very important point about the British constitution," he said. "Under this government it has become increasingly blurred."

There were too few checks and balances on the over-centralisation of government, and individuals had too few rights. Calling for a freedom of information act and bill of rights, Mr Smith said politicians should strive towards a democracy in which there was wide participation, keen debate and open decision-making.

Leading article, page 15



Dual target spoils Labour leader's aim

No one in the Labour party will now be able to accuse John Smith of muffling his attack, after last night's broadside about declining standards in government. For someone naturally so cautious, his language was remarkably strong. He talked of the dangers of an eventual erosion of public confidence in our whole political system and of a crisis of political authority.

However, he confused two separate targets. He aimed both at standards of behaviour by ministers and civil servants and at responsibility for policy failures. The two are not the same. Whether Norman Lamont should resign over failures in economic policy, or Michael Heseltine over the pit closures fiasco, are questions of political credibility and judgment, not of ethical standards. Both are obviously responsible for what has gone wrong, and perhaps one or other, or both, should go. However, their future is not an absolute question of right or wrong but a relative one.

There was never a golden age when ministers resigned when their policies failed, as Mr Smith should remember from his days as a minister from 1974 until 1979. Ministers generally resign only when they lose the confidence of their colleagues. To talk of matters of honour, as Mr Smith did, risks creating questions of principle where none have ever existed.

Mr Smith is on much stronger ground when he discusses the affair of Mr Lamont's legal fees, the Matrix Churchill trial and sales to Iraq, the move by former cabinet ministers to influential posts in privatised industries, and the revolving door whereby senior civil servants leave Whitehall for top jobs in industries closely connected with their former departments. All these raise genuine ethical issues, and it was revealing yesterday that Downing Street officials emphasised that the prime minister would be paying his own legal fees in the libel actions he has brought.

These examples are all symptoms of the impact of nearly 14 years of one-party rule, which Mr Smith fairly argued have "potentially extremely damaging" implications for the civil service. No one disputes the high standards of Sir Robin Butler and his senior colleagues, certainly by comparison with many other countries. It is rather that the long period of one-party rule has affected the instinctive attitudes of civil servants and is, according to Mr Smith, increasingly compromising their impartiality.

The explanation given to the public accounts committee last week by senior officials for the payment of some of Mr Lamont's legal fees by the Treasury was unconvincing. It smacked too much of cosy relationships confusing the political and personal interests of a minister with the national interest. Mr Smith offered some sensible suggestions about safeguarding the proper role of civil servants, including a code of conduct.

One-party rule has exposed serious weaknesses. Mr Smith's remedies included strengthening the power of Parliament over the executive (but how?), devolving power within Britain, the enactment of a bill of rights, a freedom of information act, and greater openness in decision-making.

However, Mr Smith was guilty of partial oversight. He neglected to mention worries about ethical standards in local government, highlighted by this week's allegations of corruption in some town halls. These are mainly, of course, Labour-controlled ones like Lambeth and Hackney, though there have been earlier reports of irregularities in Tory-run councils too. The specific causes are different, but the underlying issue is the same — a long period of one-party control which allows a culture to develop in which fraud and waste occurs.

There is no reason why voters should not prefer one party in power for a long period. But if they do, tighter rules of conduct and closer outside scrutiny are needed to prevent abuses of that power.

PETER RIDDELL



Free vote tests the mood on new laws to curb press

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLIVE Soley's freedom and responsibility of the press bill is expected to receive cross-party support when it gets its second reading today, with MPs having a free vote.

Ministers hope this will encourage a full debate on press freedom so they can gauge the strength of feeling for tighter press controls. Downing Street officials yesterday played down suggestions that the *New Statesman* controversy would harden John Major's stance on press restraint. They were anxious to avoid any impression that Mr Major would be swayed by personal considerations, but many ministers and Tory MPs said the case for greater curbs was becoming undeniable.

The bill, which calls for an independent press authority, has been publicly supported by the shadow heritage secretary and many Tory MPs have privately indicated that they would vote for it.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, Tory chairman of the Commons home affairs select committee, said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme: "MPs are getting more and more browned off at the distasteful and gratuitous muckracking that is going on."

Mr Soley, the Labour MP for Hammersmith, said yesterday that this week's article in the *New Statesman* on John Major, coupled with coverage of the royal family, would probably help his bill. He said there were signs that newspaper editors were deliberately firing "warning shots across the bows" to prevent the government accepting the Calcutt report or his bill. "I do think there has been evidence for some time that newspapers at a senior level were going to go 'nuclear' on the government if they went down the Calcutt road or supported my bill," Mr Soley said. "If this is happening this is totally unacceptable."

Although Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, says the government cannot support the bill in its present form, ministers are said to be considering amendments to make it more acceptable.

Mr Brooke intends to wait until the national heritage select committee publishes its report on press controls at the end of February before it spells out its own intentions both in relation to the bill and to the proposals from Sir David Calcutt. The options include amending Mr Soley's bill with his agreement; introducing new legislation in the next session; or a halfway house of using the bill for some measures and introducing others through a criminal justice bill.

The government is opposed to the plan for a statutory tribunal, and it does not support the part of the bill which concentrates on freedom of information.

Ministers are determined that the bill should not focus on the press but should have wider application to cover, for example, private detectives. They also want to introduce new laws to cover bugging, photographing and trespassing along the lines proposed by the Calcutt report.

Mr Soley has already discussed possible amendments with Robert Key, the heritage minister, on the appointments procedure for the independent press authority. He has no intention of letting the government hijack his bill and has reservations about many of the Calcutt proposals.

New Statesman, page 2
Janet Daley, page 14

PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

The main business in the Commons next week:
Monday: European Communities (amendment) bill, committee, tenth day.
Tuesday: Railways bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Motions on revenue support grant in England.
Thursday: European Communities (amendment) bill, committee.
Friday: Private members' bills.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:
Monday: Debate on the future of Rosyth dockyard.
Tuesday: Agriculture bill, third reading. Welsh language bill, committee.
Wednesday: Debates on the funding of charities and voluntary organisations and on legal aid.
Thursday: Welsh language bill, committee, final day.

MPs tire of Maastricht marathon

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ROBERT MORGAN

FRUSTRATION over the pace of the Maastricht debate spilled over in the Commons yesterday as MPs protested that other important issues were being sidelined.

As the bill allowing the treaty to be ratified moved into its ninth day of committee stage debate, the impatience of some back-benchers showed itself through calls for more time to be made available for other topics.

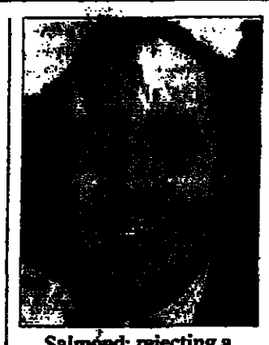
Each week since MPs returned to Westminster after the Christmas recess, at least two days of government time have been taken up by the bill.

John Wilkinson, Tory MP for Ruislip-Northwood, was among MPs yesterday who pressed Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, to reduce the time given to debating the bill. Denouncing the treaty as "ridiculous and totally irrelevant", he joined several MPs in calling for debate on the armed forces.

Some MPs are concerned that insufficient time will be available to discuss what they consider are more pressing issues, such as the coal industry, the railways, defence *Options for Change* and the involvement of British troops in the former Yugoslavia.

The government insisted that it was satisfied with the bill's progress and had no plans to reduce or increase the amount of parliamentary time set aside.

In yesterday's debate, which centred on immigration, two opponents of the bill offered contradictory interpretations of the treaty. Sir Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) said it would open the door to anyone to come into Britain, while Ken Livingstone (Brent East, Lab) said it was designed to keep black people and Arabs out of Europe.



Salmond: rejecting a "toothless tiger"

Scottish shake-up claims attacked

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

OPPOSITION parties yesterday branded reports that the government is about to give Scotland a bigger role in its own government as "toothless" and an inadequate substitute for a full Scottish parliament.

A report leaked to *The Scotsman* newspaper suggested that the government is preparing a shake-up of the Scottish political system, with proposals to transfer some parliamentary business from Westminster to Edinburgh and increase the power of the Scottish Grand Committee, at present a debating body made up of all 72 Scottish MPs. The proposals, it is said, are due to be announced next month by the prime minister.

The Scottish office described the report as "speculative" and refused further comment. "An announcement will be made by the prime minister himself in the next few weeks," a spokesman said.

Tom Clarke, the shadow Scottish secretary, was dismissive. "No amount of window dressing will substitute for a Scottish parliament," he said.

Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader and MP for Banff and Buchan, said: "The test of any proposals will be whether the elected representatives of the Scottish people will have the ability to determine policy in Scotland or whether all they will be given is the right to talk about it. No Tory toothless tiger or Labour dead-end devolution is a substitute for independence in Europe with our own independent parliament in Scotland and an effective voice in Europe."

AROUND THE LOBBY

Lamont warned on taxes

Senior Tory backbench MPs warned Norman Lamont last night not to raise taxes in his March Budget or risk snuffing out the small "green shoots" of recovery through announcing drastic economic reforms.

The "mini-Budget" message, delivered by officers of the 1922 Committee, ruling body of the Tory backbenchers, made it clear that they would strongly object to rises in income tax. They also cautioned against widening the scope of the 17.5 per cent VAT in the March Budget, although some did not rule it out for the second Budget at the end of the year. Some backbenchers have indicated they could live with putting VAT on items which are presently zero-rated.

Bond bind

Peter Viggers, the Tory MP for Gosport, has started a campaign against the Post Office's decision to sell premium bonds in blocks of at least £100. He says that it will prevent grandparents giving their grandchildren a £10 bond birthday present.

State visit

John Major has invited President Kravchuk of Ukraine to visit Britain from Febuary 9 to 12, the prime minister's office said. It will be the first visit of a Ukrainian president.

Reform, page 10

Tree protest

A man and a woman were removed from the Commons public gallery during question time after shouting slogans about rainforests and throwing leaflets.

In Parliament

Commons (9.30): Private member's bill: Freedom and Responsibility of the Press Bill, second reading.

هكذا من الأصل

Yeltsin eases Indian debt and promises more arms

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Yeltsin succeeded yesterday in bringing about a rapprochement between Moscow and Delhi by claiming an end to a festering debt dispute between the two countries and by promising to increase arms supplies to India.

Mr Yeltsin and P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, signed a treaty of friendship and co-operation during the first visit by a Russian leader since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The trip has been seen as a means to restore relations between the two nations, economic partners and staunch political allies for more than 40 years.

Russia's demand that India repay a $16 billion (£10.5 billion) debt, principally for military equipment, spares and oil calculated at a 1978 exchange rate, had been a block to trade. However, Mr Yeltsin told Indian businessmen yesterday that the quarrel, which had hinged on the question of how much of the debt could be written off, had been solved after a single morning of talks.

"Today, after detailed negotiations with the Indian president and prime minister, I announce that the debt question has been settled. The problem no longer exists," the Russian leader said. He declined to give details of the agreement, but officials said earlier that a political solution could be reached before technical details were fixed.

Mr Yeltsin said that if obstacles were lifted trade could climb from a figure of $1.5 billion in 1992 to $3.5 billion by 1994. He made no promises to guarantee oil deliveries, which dropped from four million tonnes in 1991 to to just over one million last year. However, he did promise that arms supplies to India would be increased.

Hardly any spares have been delivered since the Soviet Union collapsed and large numbers of Indian Air Force planes are believed to have been grounded. A substantial amount of ground equipment is also reported to be non-operational, and the armed forces have had to curb training to save wear and tear on machinery.

Mr Yeltsin offered a three-part plan to reverse the slowdown, although Russia is cutting back sharply on its arms output. He said Russian factories making weapons for India would be kept at the bottom of Moscow's shutdown list. Joint ventures would be set up to enable India to acquire the technological know-how to manufacture vital parts and Russia would build two factories in India.

Both countries are now struggling to liberalise their economies and Indian entrepreneurs are keen to set up new ventures with Russia. Mr Yeltsin said his country would welcome any Indian initiatives. India believes that Mr Yeltsin, who visited South Korea in November and China last month, wants to cultivate closer relations with Asia to balance the Western tilt of its foreign policy. It expects him to reject pressure from America to cancel a $230 million deal to sell cryogenic engines and technology to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

This is seen by Delhi as a sign of Moscow's impatience with Washington, which last year imposed sanctions on the engine supplier, Glavkosmos, and on the ISRO. India's space programme has been set back as a result, because nearly 50 per cent of electronic components used by the space organisation comes from America. Washington, which fears the programme is aimed at building up a nuclear strike force, has hinted that it will impose further sanctions against Russia if the sale goes ahead.

Mr Yeltsin is expected to sign agreements providing for long-term co-operation covering power, steel, coal and the export of Russian oil. India believes its low labour costs and availability of low technology make it an attractive market for Russia.



Full stretch: President Yeltsin clasping his wife Naina's hands around the 800-year-old Iron Pillar in Qutab Minar yesterday. Legend has it that you will have good luck if you can grasp your own hands round the pillar

Burma rounds up Suu Kyi followers

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN RANGOON

BURMA'S military rulers ordered increased security and arrested opposition supporters yesterday after leaflets appeared in Rangoon calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader and Nobel Laureate held under house arrest since 1989.

The alert, resulting in a heightened military presence in the capital and in eastern Burma, where minority rebel armies operate, comes ahead of the scheduled reconvening of a convention on Monday which the Burmese military junta says is designed to write a new civilian constitution leading to fresh elections.

The convention was abruptly adjourned after two days this month because, diplomats believe, previously cowed opposition parties including Daw Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), showed "a renewed lease of life" by criticising the junta's demands as contrary to the stated goal of bringing in a multiparty democratic system.

The NLD won more than 80 per cent of seats in the 1990 elections but it has not been allowed to take power. Most of its former leaders are in prison or have fled abroad.

Major General Myo Nyunt, the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council military chief in Rangoon, who also chairs the constitutional convention, said this week: "All people are to extend their helping hand to make it [the convention] a success by keeping destructive elements at bay."

Rangoon's controlled press reported the arrests, saying people writing "agitative letters" on walls near the city's holiest Buddhist shrine, the Shwedagon Pogoda, had been detained. There were also reports of leaflet protests calling for the release of Daw Suu Kyi and other NLD members, recognition of the 1990 election results, freedom of speech and the press, and the punishment of "corrupt high-ranking military officials associated with drug lords".

Lieutenant-Colonel Kyaw Win, the deputy chief of military intelligence, said in an interview yesterday that the Burmese army had been forced to counter-attack against Karen rebels in eastern Burma after they had taken advantage of a ceasefire at the start of the convention to attack several villages.

Japanese mobsters recycle a toe or two

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

There was little fanfare at the opening this week of a new job centre in Tokyo's Marunouchi district, but passers-by could not help but notice something untoward about it.

For a start, its habitués are exclusively male. Most have permed hair and some wear loud floral shirts and shiny double-breasted suits. From beneath their cuffs peek the green and purple extremities of tattooed dragons. Many shuffle to and from interviews with their hands firmly concealed in their pockets, the better to hide the fingerless stumps on their hands.

The Marunouchi centre is Tokyo's first employment service council for seceders from gang organisations, a government-sponsored office set up to aid the rehabilitation of gangsters who have decided to go straight. It is the result of a new anti-gang law, implemented last year, designed to tighten controls on the *yakuza*, Japan's 89,000 Mafia-type mobsters, who like to project themselves as a cross between Robin Hood and James Bond and who can often be recognised by their missing little fingers, lopped off to atone for mistakes and to display loyalty to the boss.

In theory, gangs can be designated criminal organisations if membership exceeds 1,000, of whom 42 or more are convicts or former convicts. Already demonstrating the toothless nature of the new law, the mobsters have responded simply by booting out of their ranks sufficient crooks to keep their gangs off the register.

With the underworld's more thuggish elements now wandering footloose and disgruntled on the streets, the government is scrambling to implement its well intentioned but fanciful schemes to assist their re-entry into polite society. "We want to find them legitimate work in all sorts of areas," Harumi Ono, manager of the new job centre, said. Hairdressing, interior design, newspaper delivery and the restaurant business have all been suggested, but Mr Ono and his team have encountered some big drawbacks. Gangsters with tattoos and missing fingers are not having much luck. Restaurants are reluctant to employ them and so are beauty salons.

While there is not much hope for those who made the permanent fashion decision to wear a tattoo, a solution has been found for those shy about a shortage of fingers. A Tokyo doctor has perfected a surgical technique to replace missing fingers with inessential toes. His surgery is booked for the rest of the year.

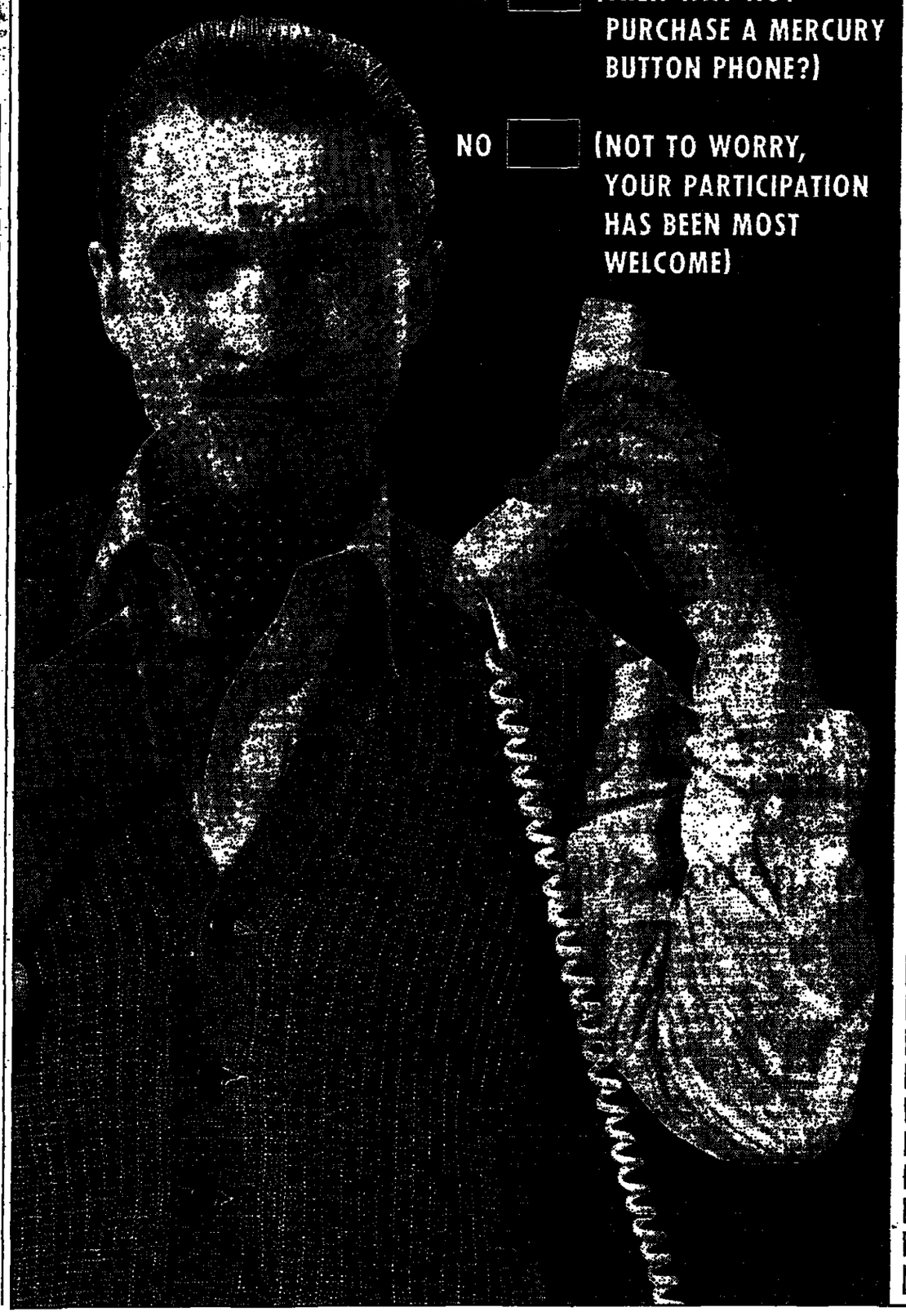
Despite the new law, some of Japan's 3,300 gangs have been reluctant to whittle down their criminal membership to just 42 and have instead decided to incorporate themselves, registering the boss as president and his henchmen as directors. The decision to enter the more acceptable side of Japan's business community has stirred the creative juices of the mobs' public relations department and new corporate identities have been imaginative. Some have turned to God, setting themselves up as profit-making religions; others have launched construction and garden design companies.

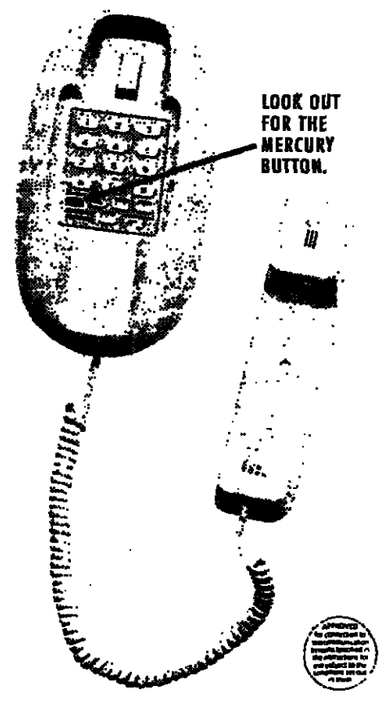
Perhaps the most audacious move comes from Yamaguchigumi, Japan's biggest gang, with 30,000 members. Although no stranger to the drugs trade, it has registered as an anti-drugs group, launching the Alliance for National Drug Purification. Organised crime in Japan is, like almost everything else, organised superbly well.

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Washington policy team flounders in morass of Balkan conflict


Christopher: has asked for strategy options

BY ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

■ The Clinton administration appears determined to take a strong line over Bosnia. The courses of action being discussed are causing anxiety to European governments

PRESIDENT Clinton's national security team is beginning to unravel the mysteries of the Balkan war, which presents the new administration with its most pressing foreign policy challenge.

The Clinton presidency may diverge sharply from the European line on the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to judge from some of the position papers commissioned by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State. Options to be considered by the team include lifting the arms embargo for the Muslims and using the no-fly zone to bomb airfields or to knock out Serbian artillery around besieged cities in Bosnia.

Such policies would cause alarm in Europe. Britain shares the doubts of the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, about the arming of Bosnian Muslim troops: it would prolong the war, do little towards establishing a stable Bosnian state and would redefine the conflict as a war between Islamic states (who would emerge as the main arms suppliers) and Christian states (with Russia firmly in the Serbian camp).

A no-fly zone that developed into a bombing mission would mean the reinforcement of British and French troops on the ground and their transformation from relief escorts to a active military force. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, made plain in his speech at London's Chatham House this week that this option was not being contemplated. Washington is as confused about Bosnia as are European governments. There is a general perception that American policy needs to be tougher. George Bush, perhaps influenced by the urgings of Mr Clinton in the wings, ended many months of passivity by declaring that if Serbia threatened the province of Kosovo, it would risk a direct confrontation with America. However, many European diplomats quietly agree that a war with Serbia over Kosovo would be an absurdity.

If a new policy is to be forged in the south of former Yugoslavia, it must surely be in Macedonia, which is particularly vulnerable as it is economically dependent on the two countries — Greece and Serbia — that most vehemently oppose its independent existence. The European Community has been unable to overcome Greek objections to recognising the Skopje regime. The Clinton administration, sensitive to the Greek lobby in the Democratic party, is no closer to a solution.

European uncertainty in the debate about intervention can partly be explained by the mismatch between the obvious goal — to bring peace to the Balkans — and the resources needed. The Foreign Office and the defence ministry now agree about the danger of "overstretching" the armed forces. At Chatham House Mr Hurd implicitly answered the grumbles of Mr Bush's Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger, and made plain that when British lives were at stake, Britain could not simply play follow-my-leader.

America does have the military resources to enforce some kind of peace in the Balkans. Before it can consider an armed operation, however, it has to resolve some matters of principle. Les Aspin, the US defence secretary, seems to favour a plan for the US armed forces that would entail 217,000 fewer active duty personnel and 110 fewer navy ships than what is considered the minimum consistent with maintaining America's superpower role. He has also been bombarded with advice that US ground troops should not be committed to the Balkans. How then can he propose tougher action in Bosnia?

The Clinton administration is also far from sure about its eventual political aim in the Balkans. The official State Department line on the Owen-Vance Geneva plan seems to be that it is better than a policy vacuum. Privately, though, many senior US diplomats believe the plan will never work. Many voices in Washington object to any negotiation involving Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, identified by the department as war crime suspects.

Mining of dam raises Croatian flood fears

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

FIGHTING in Croatia spread yesterday as Serbs and Croats traded artillery fire at the strategic Peruca dam, once a principal source of electricity. Conflicting reports suggested that the dam had been damaged but there was no information to confirm how serious this was.

Hundreds of miles to the east, another dam came under fire as Yugoslav forces stationed on the Drina river opened fire on Bosnian Muslim forces whom they alleged had fired on them at the Bajina Basta hydroelectric plant straddling the river between the two republics. According to Yugoslav military sources, Bosnian Muslim forces had been "silenced" by a "strong and precise counter-attack".

There was increasing concern during the day over the fate of the Peruca dam in Croatia. It is believed to be heavily mined and if totally destroyed 540 million cubic metres of water would flood the surrounding area.

Because of its solid construction, it is unlikely that the dam would be totally destroyed but experts said that there was a real risk that if the walkway across its top were damaged then disaster could follow as concrete choked overflow sluices.

In Zagreb, the Croatian capital, General Satish Nambiar, the commander of United Nations forces in former Yugoslavia, used uncharacteristically tough language as he condemned the Croatian government for unleashing its attack on the Serb enclave of Krajina.

"I have to tell you quite frankly that this has been an immensely rash and ill-advised action," he said. "It could have destructive consequences which we have not yet witnessed."

General Nambiar said he did not criticise the Croats for losing patience with the length of time it was taking to resolve disputes. "The Serbs of Krajina have often behaved in an exasperating way, failing to comply with agreements made, failing to co-operate fully with the UN," he said. "But if we took to violence every time we felt frustrated, there would be no peace, for society would fall apart."

In Belgrade, Goran Hadzic, the Krajina leader, denied suggestions made by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, that his men were holding French peacekeepers hostage in a hotel. Thirteen have now been evacuated by Czech troops and armoured personnel carriers were last night on their way to rescue the others. Mr Hadzic accused French peacekeepers of spying for the Croats.

He claimed that his men had already retaken 80 per cent of the land lost to the Croats in the past few days and alleged that the Croats had killed 830 civilians when they had taken Serb-held villages. He also said that 150 Serb soldiers had died in the fighting.

When fighting erupted, Mr Hadzic appealed to the authorities in Belgrade to send military assistance. However, with no explanation, he has now changed his mind and said yesterday: "We want Yugoslavia to remain out of the conflict; we shall deal with this ourselves."

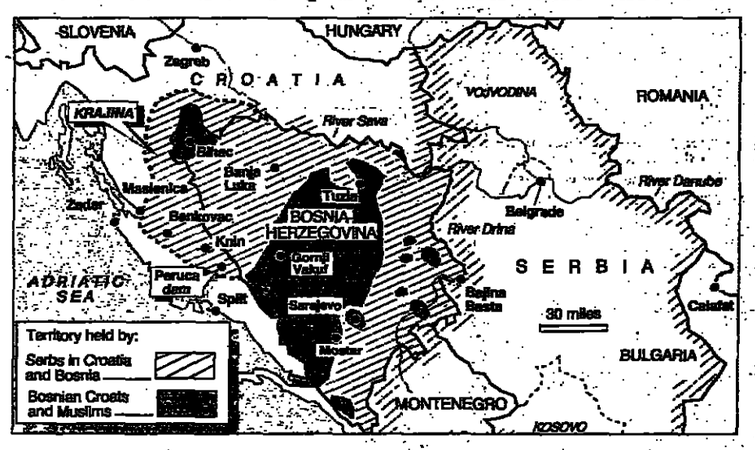
Every day, buses are leaving from central Belgrade taking Krajina Serbs and also volunteers from Serbia to the front. With increasing numbers of casualties, an air link is to be established between Belgrade and the northern Bosnian Serb-held town of Banja Luka. Wounded will be evacuated from Krajina and then brought to Belgrade.

According to one Serbian source, permission was granted by the UN sanctions committee in New York for the flights with "astonishing rapidity". Because of the security council's declared no-fly zone, permission must be sought for all flights over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Despite a ceasefire order from Bosnian Muslim and Croat leaders, fighting was reported to be continuing between the two sides in Bosnia yesterday. According to international aid agencies the clashes have cut the only route to central Bosnia.



Troubled waters: a Romanian guard on the Danube orders the Serbian tugboat *Kumanovo* to stop near the southern border at Oltenita. The vessel was pushing barges laden with Ukrainian oil which was destined for former Yugoslavia in violation of United Nations sanctions



Serbs win Danube river race

Two vital oil cargoes have just reached Serbia, Sean Hillen and Tim Judah write

With loudspeakers held high above the billowing waters of the Danube, uniformed Romanian officers leant from their speedboats and screamed orders at the defiant crew of the *Velebit* as she chugged closer to Serbian waters.

In a scene reminiscent of a thriller, Romanian and Bulgarian border guards and the Serbian crew dodged across each other's path. The threats from the guards were often drowned out by the engine sounds of ship, boat and hovering helicopter.

As evening fell, the attempts by Bulgarian and Romanian authorities to stop valuable cargoes of oil, enough to provide a month's supply for Serbia, from reaching that border seemed to be failing. Instructions to stop the ship's engine were ignored and a launch belonging to the Romanian interior ministry was rammed into the riverbank by the Serbian barge.

"We are doing all we can," Captain Ramos Niculescu said, as he peered through binoculars from the river bank towards the dark hull of the tug. "It is a very bad mess but we do not want to shoot at them. They may unload the whole lot into the water and that would be an even bigger mess."

In a building near by, naval officers signalled a special code for the Serbian boat to halt, but their efforts went unrewarded. "We have been trying all night but they ignore our signals," said Captain Niculescu.

The water chase in which Bulgaria and Romania are trying to stop three ships from reaching Serbia began earlier this week when Romanian authorities released Serbian ship that had been impounded in the delta. The captains gave assurances that they would return to Ukraine with their cargoes.

However, on leaving the ports of Braila and Galatz the ships turned west to follow the winding Danube along the Romanian-Bulgarian border towards the Serbian port of Prahova. Two of the ships, the *Bihac* and the *Onsac*, have reached Serbia with an estimated 50,000 tonnes of oil. The *Kumanovo* moved towards Serbia transporting 12 barges of oil; the *Velebit* is carrying ten barges and the fifth ship, the *Kajmakcalan*, with ten barges, ran ashore near the remaining harbour off Zimnicea.

The ships "have been travelling at night without lights so it is harder to stop them", Nat Page, a British embassy official at Bucharest, said. "We have been putting considerable pressure on the Romanian and Bulgarian governments to use force, but they have been unwilling to do so. "Romania is particularly concerned to keep the ministry of defence out of this situation to avoid anything that might be considered an act of war. We believe that both governments genuinely want to support the sanctions against Serbia," he added.

Lyuben Berov, the exasperated Bulgarian prime minister, has said that while it is technically possible to stop the barges, he believes that the use of force might provoke an ecological catastrophe and even an all-out Balkan war. "Shall we kill the crew?" he asked in Sofia. "At the moment, it is not the wisest approach to force us to sink ships on the Danube ... We won't take the risk and cause war."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teenage victims found

Madrid: Police have mounted a murder hunt after the bodies of three teenage girls who had been missing since last November were found in a shallow grave about 12 miles from their village in Valencia province (Edward Owen writes).

The disappearance of the girls, aged 14 and 15, while hitch-hiking to a discotheque, had already attracted widespread attention in Spain. The parents had met Felipe González, the prime minister, in Madrid and a television programme on missing people regularly featured the enquiry as well as alleged sightings. A magazine had also issued a poster with pictures of the missing girls.

Greens gain

Paris: Two polls show that France's environmental parties now command as much support as the Socialists, about 19 per cent, but they will win far fewer seats in the March elections because of the electoral system. The centre-right opposition, widely forecast to win the elections, commands about 40 per cent. The rise of the two main environmentalist parties, Génération Ecologie and Les Verts, has mirrored the Socialists' spectacular fall after 11 years' domination of French politics. *(Reuter)*

Suchocka acts

Warsaw: Hanna Suchocka, the Polish prime minister, has suspended the justice minister, Zbigniew Dyka, after he handed over a political investigation of an opposition politician to Jacek Kaucz, a magistrate who prosecuted Solidarity activists under the former communist regime. *(AFP)*

German SPD party drifts in sea of scandal

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BONN

POLICE are investigating allegations that Oskar Lafontaine, the prime minister of Saarland and the Social Democratic challenger to Helmut Kohl in the last general election, is linked to an underworld of guns, blackmail and attempted murder.

The Saarland Social Democrats are to hold a special meeting next week to investigate accusations against two people in Herr Lafontaine's entourage, one of whom spent two years in a French prison and is alleged to have attempted to blackmail him with compromising photographs taken in a nightclub. Herr Lafontaine's bodyguard is also accused of the illegal possession of a gun.

Herr Lafontaine, who was seriously wounded in an assassination attempt during the election campaign, has dismissed as groundless the swirl of press speculation about his contacts and suggestions that he was open to blackmail. His embarrassed party colleagues are, however, distancing themselves from the former left-wing maverick, now entrusted with negotiating conditions for opposition support for the government's austerity package to finance the rebuilding of eastern Germany.

The allegations come at a bad time for the Social Democrats (SPD). Deeply split over the need to change fundamental policies that have been overtaken by German unification and the end of the Cold war, they appear unable to capitalise on the unpopularity of the centre-right coalition formed by Herr Kohl, the chancellor. The SPD is finding that a range of left-wing positions on defence, immigration, crime, the economy, trade unions and social security have been undercut by the rapid changes in Europe and it appears increasingly outdated to its supporters.

The party's attempt to broaden its appeal, rethink its ideology and develop clear alternatives to the Christian Democrats have been thwarted by weak leadership, vacillation and the extraordinary new demands — economic and political — that the unified Germany should shed its quiet postwar stance for a more active world role.

The party has only 18 months to prepare for the next general election but after more than ten years out of office it is still too preoccupied with internal debate to seize the initiative. The SPD's dilemma is that it cannot adopt a higher profile and sharpen its opposition to Herr Kohl without making the country virtually ungovernable. In contrast to opposition parties elsewhere, the Social Democrats are constrained by a climate of political consensus and the overwhelming need for all politicians to work together to steer Germany through the process of unification and economic overload.

Three issues in particular depend on SPD co-operation: a new law restricting the right of foreigners to claim asylum, the deployment of German troops in United Nations operations and on other "out-of-area" missions, and the passage of the "solidarity pact" of economic cuts.

Despite public agonising, the party has reluctantly accepted the need for all three. However, in its attempt to modify the government's proposals it has fallen between two stools: instead of outright support or opposition, its protracted haggling has prolonged the deadlock, angered the government, alienated voters and given an impression of uncertainty, weakness and drift.

Karsten Voigt, the party spokesman on foreign affairs, insists that the SPD, like German society, needs time to adjust to new circumstances. "Whether we like it or not, we are a big power now." Herr Voigt said. "It is no use regretting the old provincialism of West Germany, which has disappeared with unification. But we need to get used to the idea of deploying troops abroad, just as our allies must get used to seeing Germans in uniform overseas."

He said issues such as asylum went to the heart of the party's conscience and identity. The classic liberalism of the past would not solve a burning problem. "We are the main target of emigration from all Eastern Europe. But we cannot take in more than 100,000 a year." The SPD instead should campaign for greater Western — not just German — investment in Russia and Eastern Europe, and should ensure Germany used its money and influence to bring stability to the region.

Moscow to keep faith with market

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW AND ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

VIKTOR Chernomyrdin, the Russian prime minister, yesterday dispelled some fears about the weakening of Russia's economic reform programme by making a strong speech to parliament in support of the market and a tough anti-inflationary policy.

However, he also promised new subsidies to agriculture, "key industries" and the poor, without saying in detail how these are to be paid for. He told deputies that "we will slide into the abyss if we fail to recognise that money supply growth and inflation must be restrained, and to agree that any increase in state spending must be balanced by cuts or revenue increases". He said the fight to stabilise the rouble will be at the heart of economic policy, and criticised parliament for doubling pensions without keeping this in mind.

In Ukraine the government outlined plans this week to stabilise the economy against a backdrop of hyper-inflation and a 20 per cent slump in industrial production over the past year. Leonid Kuchma, the prime minister, and Viktor Pynzenik, his free marketeer economics minister, said they aimed to bring monetary policy under control and to halt inflation which is running at 50 per cent a month. "We have no other choice. There has been a disintegration of the state-run sector of the economy," Mr Pynzenik said.

For the mass of population in Ukraine and throughout the former Soviet Union, political independence and economic reform is equated with hardship and shortages while the corrupt Brezhnev years are recalled as a halcyon era of plenty.

Jobs for the boys stays top of Brussels agenda

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES Delors's European Commission may have entered the year a little bedraggled, but the allure of its top jobs stays strong. Undistracted by war and recession beyond the city limits, the Brussels cocktail circuit buzzes with little else but talk of juicy vacancies.

Seven new commissioners have hit town. Pieces of the EC bureaucracy are being carved up in anticipation that the Maastricht treaty will be ratified later this year. Three commissioners, including Sir Leon Brittan, have plunged into a diverting turf fight over who represents the Commission outside the borders of the Community. "Ever watched three men trying to get into one pair of trousers?" a bemused diplomat asked me the other day. One waggish Eurocrat has circulated an all-too-realistic map of Bosnia-Herzegovina divided between the trio of warring commissioners.

Just below the commissioners, four top-grade posts are up for grabs, carrying salaries of up to £124,000 a year. In theory, officials are chosen on their merits as Europeans. Nobody makes any public reference to the fact that, in practice, a strict national quota system splits the spoils between the 12 nationalities.

The German grip on the Commission's overseas aid programme has just been released by the sudden resignation of Dieter Frisch, its boss. Herr Frisch took violent exception to the suggestion that he should depart without fuss and shot off an indignant blast to his colleagues, telling them to disregard any bromides they might hear about how he had resigned "for reasons of health" or because he was close to retirement. "I have had enough," he said simply. Differences of view, character and temperament made it impossible for him to work any longer with Manuel Marin, his Spanish commissioner. Their relations had "deteriorated across the years", making his position impossible, Herr Frisch wrote.

Señor Marin has kept mum behind his impressive beard and is holding his breath to find out if he becomes the senior vice-president in the Commission and gets to sit next to M Delors at EC summits. Almost unnoticed in the outside world, M Delors usually has six vice-presidents to assist him. There are only 17 commissioners in all, scheduled to fall to 12 before long, and the number of vice-presidents rose because creating new ones was the only way to keep each nationality happy. A commissioner now earns £140,000 and vice-presidents get £15,000 on top.


Sir Leon: "war of the three commissioners"

هكذا من الأخبار

Deportation verdict leaves Israel at odds with United Nations

Yitzhak Rabin says he has been vindicated. The supreme court ruling has angered Arabs and leaves the peace talks in an impasse

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL braced itself for renewed confrontation with the United Nations yesterday, after the country's supreme court unanimously upheld the government's deportation of hundreds of Palestinians to Lebanon.

Six weeks after 415 Arabs suspected of membership of banned militant Islamic groups were dumped in southern Lebanon, the same seven-judge panel that approved their expulsion rejected petitions for their repatriation. The supreme court ruled that the Israeli military had acted illegally when it issued its mass deportation order — but that the individual expulsions were still valid under the provisions of the 1945 defence emergency regulations used by the British authorities in mandate Palestine.

Chief Justice Meir Shamgar rejected the petitions to allow the exiles back, but also ordered the authorities to arrange for all the expelled Palestinians to appeal against their banishment in person.

In spite of the court's apparent criticism of the government's handling of the deportations, one of the human rights lawyers fighting the expulsions, Leah Tsemel, described the decision as a "catastrophe" because there was nothing to stop the authorities repeating the action in future. "It is a very severe decision, it gave this wave of deportation legality de facto," she said. "It puts the interests of the state foremost and leaves elementary justice and international law at the bottom." Following the decision, the Israeli military authorities promised to review all the cases and to establish a procedure for the detainees to meet lawyers and lodge appeals. Avigdor Feldman, another of the men's lawyers, said that he thought any appeals could not be held on Lebanese territory, in Israel's self-declared security zone, as had been suggested, as this would be a matter of Israeli sovereignty. He said he hoped the government would now annul the deportations.

However, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, greeted the result as a vindication of the policy of collective punishment, which enjoys broad support with the Israeli public but has led to harsh international condemnation. The court ruling today approved retroactively the legality of the government's decision," said a statement released from Mr Rabin's office.

Israel's representative at the UN, Gad Yacobi gave a warning that the ruling would almost certainly lead to further action against the country in the UN Security Council, which accused Israel of breaking international law by violating the Fourth Geneva Convention. "The decision does not change at the moment the struggle that awaits us at the security council," he said, referring to a report by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, who urged member states to force Israel to repatriate the deportees under the terms of resolution 799.

The continued row over the deportees could seriously damage the future of the Middle East peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours due to resume next month in Washington, probably after the first visit to the region by Warren Christopher, the new US Secretary of State.

Israel's negotiating partners, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians, reacted angrily to the supreme court decision, as did the deportees, who announced a hunger strike to protest the ruling. Abdul Aziz al-Rantisi, the leader of the 396 Palestinians trapped in a tented encampment, said: "I swear to God that Israel will be sorry for what it has done. This decision will bring destruction and curses on Israel."

In Jerusalem, Hanan Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, which has threatened to boycott the talks until the deportees are returned, said: "The decision demonstrates that we cannot expect justice from an Israeli court."

Fares Boueiz, the Lebanese foreign minister, added that the court's ruling ignored the rights of the Palestinians and "does not facilitate or even support the continuation of the peace talks".

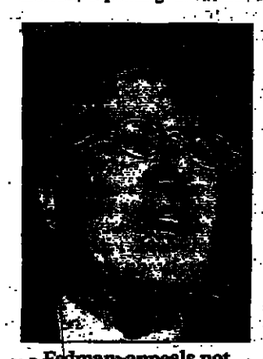
Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker, the Jordanian prime minister, said that the Israeli court decision threatened the peace process. "This ruling is part of Israel's persistence in continuing its policies of injustice and oppression against the Palestinian people ... The continuation of the deportation is negatively affecting the Middle East peace process and efforts to achieve peace in the area."

□ **Abu Dhabi:** The United Arab Emirates has tightened its boycott of Israel, ordering its banks and companies to comply strictly with an Arab League ban on trade. America recently requested Gulf countries to lift the long-standing boycott. *(AFP)*.

Conor Cruise O' Brien, page 14



Words of comfort: six-month-old Khaled Jamal Baba teething on a copy of the Koran while his mother holds him during a demonstration in Jerusalem by relatives of Palestinians deported by Israel. His father was one



Feldman: appeals not possible in Lebanon

Clinton offers compromise on gays

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton was hoping to announce an immediate suspension of the ban on homosexuals in the military last night after offering congressional leaders a compromise designed to avert an open revolt by Capitol Hill's Democrats in the first days of his presidency.

At a lengthy White House meeting on Wednesday evening the beleaguered president promised to delay for six months an executive order lifting the ban. That would allow time for Senate hearings on the implications, while Mr Clinton tried to build public and congressional support.

However Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate armed services committee, said afterwards that while there had been some progress "what happens in the interim has not been concluded yet ... it's not a done deal". Senate Republicans are planning to force a vote to codify the ban next week, and Mr Nunn is probably the only senator capable of preventing fellow Democrats from siding with them. But Mr Clinton's relationship with Mr Nunn is strained. He passed him over for Secretary of State and ignored his defence expertise, and the Georgia senator has seized this chance to assert himself.

Mr Clinton was reportedly intending to instruct the Pentagon to cease discharging homosexuals and questioning recruits about their sexual orientation during the six-month period, while suspending outstanding court cases except in cases of rape, sex with minors or on-base activities.

It was uncertain whether Mr Nunn would accept those interim arrangements, or whether he was prepared for the Senate hearings to focus on how to implement Mr Clinton's campaign pledge. A White House spokesman insisted that Mr Clinton would not yield on the basic principle.

The issue has stirred a national controversy that has given Mr Clinton a wretched first full week in office. His plan to appoint an avowed San Francisco lesbian, Roberta Achtenberg, as assistant housing secretary promises to spark more controversy, and the president's popularity has suffered.

A Gallup poll yesterday gave him a 20 per cent disapproval rating, the highest for any new president since before Dwight Eisenhower. His first approval rating was 58 per cent, seven points lower than the average since Eisenhower's day and higher only than those of Presidents Bush and Reagan.

Dr Lee fails to meet the First Patient

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton, continuing to have one of those days when nothing goes right, dismissed the White House doctor yesterday after Dr Burton Lee refused to give Mr Clinton an allergy injection.

The doctor said he did not want to administer the injection until he received Mr Clinton's medical records from Arkansas. The White House denied that the allergy injection had anything to do with Dr Lee's enforced departure and insisted that Mr Clinton was simply exercising any president's right to choose his doctor.

Dr Lee, a cancer specialist and an independent-minded figure, was President Bush's personal physician at the White House where he worked with a staff of three military doctors. He was fiercely loyal to Mr Bush, but had hoped to retain his post until at least late February to help other employees in his surgery to keep their jobs.

As it turned out, he did not stay long enough even to meet his new First Patient. He was informed of his dismissal by the head of the White House military office after being told to administer the injection by Nancy Hernreich, a long-time Clinton aide who is in charge of the president's appointments. "That woman is not a physician," Dr Lee said, "but she is the one who said 'He needs this, that and the other thing' ".

Mr Clinton is also running into trouble over his early morning jogging. Washington commuters complain of having to drive at a crawl when they get stuck behind the ten vehicles that accompany the president on his run.

The convoy consists of secret service vans, Mr Clinton's limousine, an ambulance and two vehicles for the media, plus police motorcycle outriders, all on hand in case of emergency. The secret service and police are also less than thrilled by the jogging and have predicted that the forays will stop the first time someone tries to harm the president. "These presidents come in here thinking they are made of Teflon," one official grumbled.

Apartheid starts its last lap

Cape Town: When President de Klerk addresses today's last scheduled annual opening of the apartheid parliament, he will be entering the last lap of the race to a new South Africa *(Michael Hamlyn writes)*.

Already expectations of a swift transition to an interim multiracial administration are high, thanks to what are perceived as having been successful bilateral meetings between the government and the African National Congress and the government and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Killer epidemic

Dhaka: About 700 people have died in southern Bangladesh in a diarrhoea epidemic, which is spreading through water contaminated by industrial waste and agro-chemicals. The outbreak has affected 30,000 people in six districts on the Bay of Bengal coast.

Haiti dispute

Miami: UN officials working to restore democracy to Haiti sought to keep alive plans to send a multinational observer force there, although the Caribbean country rejected UN terms for the mission.

Cambodia poll

Peking: Cambodian factions and UN representatives agreed in Peking that the country's first free general election would be held on May 23-25 with or without Khmer Rouge participation.

Jackson double

New York: Michael Jackson, the pop singer whose taste for cosmetic surgery has led to controversy and litigation, has released a new advertisement for Pepsi-Cola in which he is accompanied by a young version of himself — played by a white boy aged 11.

Claw and order

Nairobi: A shopkeeper walked into a police station in Busia, west Kenya, clutching four live rats and demanded that they be arrested for ruining his bread supply. *(Reuter)*

Britain urged to intervene in Chilean death enquiry

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN SANTIAGO

CHILEAN judicial authorities investigating the death of Jonathan Moyle, a British journalist and former RAF pilot found hanged in a Santiago hotel in March 1990, said their enquiries would reach an impasse unless Britain asks the Chilean government to hand the case over to a special judge.

"Unless the Foreign Office issues a formal request for a special enquiry here in Chile this case will remain buried under piles of other cases," said a spokesman from the office of Judge Alejandro Solis, who is leading the investigation.

Moyle was found hanged, with his hands and feet tied, in his hotel room cupboard. He was reporting on an aircraft show for *Defence Helicopter Weekly*. According to colleagues he had been investigating links between British companies and Chilean arms dealers selling weapons to Iraq.

He had told friends in Santiago shortly before his death that he believed parts of the British Tigerfish advanced torpedo and the Stonefish mine, which can be triggered by magnetic pressure and was developed by Marconi of Chelmsford, were being passed to Iraq via Carlos Cardoen, a well-known Chilean arms dealer. He also claimed to have evidence that the Helios helicopter missile guidance system was being sold to Iraq.

Tony Moyle, the dead man's father, has accused the Foreign Office of deliberately attempting to obstruct the investigation into his son's death because it could shed light on how British companies collaborated with Chilean arms dealers and the former regime of General Augusto Pinochet to sell arms to Iraq. The Moyle family has asked for the circumstances of their son's death to be included in Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq scandal.



Moyle had evidence of arms supplies to Iraq

Jorge Trivino, the Chilean lawyer representing Mr Moyle in Santiago, said that despite repeated requests to the Foreign Office and his personal request to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, during his recent visit to Chile, Britain had failed to show any interest in the investigation of Moyle's death.

Señor Trivino said: "There are suspects of the murder in Chile and abroad, but we cannot make any headway unless we get a special judge to begin a deeper enquiry and for that we need a request from the Foreign Office — that is Chilean law."

The Chilean authorities have also been slow or unwilling to investigate allegations that Señor Cardoen was the main link in arms sales to Iraq. Police investigating the case have also been accused of covering up evidence. One member of the investigating team said an initial decision to say Moyle's death had been suicide had contradicted their findings which showed that he had been drugged and killed and then placed inside the closet.

Zimbabwe rhinos near extinction

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S black rhinoceros population, which until recently was regarded as one of the last hopes for the survival of the species, is being pushed to the brink of extinction.

Officials at the department of national parks yesterday reported that even rhino which have had their horns removed to make them valueless are being hunted by poachers. Ten have been shot this month, one of the highest recorded tolls, and most were dehorned. They were found with the tiny stumps left by vets to allow for regrowth hacked off the end of their snouts. The department also revealed that, for the first time, poachers had struck at black rhino in private game parks far from vulnerable border areas.

To make matters worse, the money has run out to pay for the paramilitary guard units which have killed 167 poachers over the past eight years.

Conservationists now fear that the department has run out of options to protect the rhino. Glenn Tatham, chief warden in charge of the anti-poaching operation, said: "With a department like ours, there is no way we can afford to suspend our anti-poaching patrols. We just hope that government will fulfil its commitment to the protection ... of endangered species."

The past six months have degenerated into a nightmarish test for rhino preservation officials in Zimbabwe. Confident that the country had the last big viable population in Africa with 2,000 animals, they have been appalled that, despite the dehorning operation, numbers have dropped to an estimated 450, of which 160 are on private ranches.

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The shrink and the shrunken

John Cleese and Dr Robin Skynner, his psychotherapist, have an ambitious job: advising others how to survive life



TREVOR HUGHES

Two's company: Dr Robin Skynner, right, dismantled alarm clocks as as child and later wanted to explore humans. John Cleese, left, first visited him 19 years ago

If Dr Robin Skynner is Socrates, who is John Cleese? I ask. "Idiotus," he replies. "Ignoramus."

This light-hearted reply is a relief. Four hundred pages of earnest Socratic dialogue between the comic genius and his shrink make *Life And How To Survive It* an uncategorisable book, but it will surely sell like its predecessor *Families And How To Survive Them*, a nine-year publishing wonder that is now much used by marriage guidance counsellors.

Why, you might ask, should people look to the thrice-married Mr Cleese for advice, since his own record is so *fawlty*? A question which he himself poses. Surely, he says, if you want to paint or play chess you read a book by a good painter/chess player. So the book — which will be serialised next week in the *Daily Mail* — starts by investigating what makes a happy (or "healthy" in Skynner/Cleese parlance) family. It goes on to analyse happy corporations (Virgin Airlines is a shining example) and embraces politics, religion and moral values and how to create a better world. A more ambitious assault upon the Universe — Great Truths and saloon-bar platitudes and all — has rarely been attempted in five and a half chapters.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



John Cleese first went to Dr Skynner 19 years ago because he kept getting flu. His doctor diagnosed his problem as psychosomatic: a deadness inside, a pathological inability to enjoy life: "The sense of humour was an early casualty."

I note that he is snuffling into a Kleenex: not flu again I hope? "Got to New York on the coldest day of the year without a coat," he explains. He had gone there straight from Barbados where he married his third blonde American wife — "I make it a point of principle only to marry Americans" — Alyce Faye Eichelberg. She is a practising psychoanalyst (not, please note, a Jungian as often described, but a Tavistock-trained Freudian-Kleinian) resilient and characterful enough to cope with a complicated husband who, for all his public throwing-over of neuroses, says that he has a long way to go. But he has at last concluded that an adult marriage is an essentially unromantic and unclinging business. He and Alyce were introduced by his GP, Johnny Gayner. "I got her on prescription," Cleese likes to say.

The shrunken and the shrink sit side by side in the wicker-chaired conservatory of a smart Holland Park hotel. Dr Skynner is a mild-mannered, attentive, wind-surfing septuagenarian. They write by talking for whole days at a time, recording every word and then inserting asides (eg Cleese: "That's very good. Bloody obvious, of course" or "You rotten old shrink") into the transcripts for publication.

The stories Cleese tells from his own life are probably the nearest he will venture into autobiography. For instance, when Dr Skynner analyses what happens when people lend money to friends, Cleese relates how he lent several people money, and "it was quite astonishing how little came back". The glow of gratitude waned (Old Polonius could have warned him) and the mood changed: embarrassment caused a wedge of distance; he became "just an irritating reminder of a vague obligation that would spoil their life". It was an education to him.

Last year he discovered a much better gesture of friendship. He selected 40 favourite people and took them, all expenses paid, on a lavish three week boat trip down the Nile. "It suddenly struck me as a wonderful thing to do. And I would say it was one of the most *successful* things I have ever done in my life. I had to learn through experience that it is better to give than to lend. There was an extraordinary atmosphere on the boat." Halfway through, he and Alyce celebrated their joint 100th birthday. "Our birthdays are October 27 and 28, so on April 27 at midnight I was 52½ and she was 47½, so we had a big party.

"The best thing was that we were completely out of contact with the world. The telephone didn't work. So all those people who felt with horror that they could not survive without faxes and telephones began to find they felt an enormous sense of relief" (apparently the only outside news that got through to them was of the deaths of Frankie Howerd and Benny Hill). "Several people said afterwards that holiday had changed their lives." The group, which included Peter Cook, Victor Lowndes, Sir Charles Powell and sundry writers and film people, now feel they are bonded for life as "the boat people".

Once, Skynner and Cleese went in search of the perfect, stress-free society and found it in Ladakh in Northern Tibet, an area once cut off from the outside world but which was now open to tourists through a company in Bristol. "Alyce and I and Robin and Prue [Dr Skynner's late wife and partner] went there and it fulfilled all our expectations. There is a feeling of lightness and calm that is utterly bewitching. Just walking around I felt friendlier, more open and trusting. All the fears and hidden tensions and competitive rivalries vanish." But don't you get that on holiday anywhere? This was different, he said. "The Ladakhis could not *believe* that in Britain people get so depressed they go to doctors," said Skynner. But, Cleese added, he found his fellow tourists "peculiar".

I was pleased to hear this. The idea of a benign Cleese, smiling at strangers, is unnerving. As he says apropos the Ten Commandments, "Loving your neighbour as much as yourself is practically bloody impossible, I'd say. You might as well have a Commandment that states, 'Thou shalt fly'."

> 'Loving your neighbour as much as yourself is practically bloody impossible'
>
> JOHN CLEESE

Quite. Part of our fascination with Cleese lies in the sadistic blackness of his humour, never mind all that "suffocating honesty and goodwill" (his words) found in happy, healthy families. His interest in the Ik tribe of Uganda, who in hardship became so callous they could watch babies crawling towards fire and laugh when they got burnt, is more compatible with the Cleese we know.

Some people, he said crossly, fuss over the dog squashed to death by the block of concrete in *A Fish Called Wanda*. The proper response, he said, is the same as to a Tom and Jerry cartoon. But what about the goldfish-swallowing scene? "Look, I actually love fish and keep them," he sighs, "but they die all the time, Valerie." But the human suffering of Archie Leach? Exasperated protest. "But he's spent half the film trying to kill an old woman! You could cast Michael [Palin] as anyone and the audience would love him. If you cast him as Hitler the audience would be rooting for the Nazis." He had been to see *Home Alone 2* with his daughter and when the villain was hit on the head with a brick tossed from a high bulding, the audience roared. "All our emotional responses to films are quite scrambled," he says.

The *echt* Cleese still survives in his scathing references to "silly" feminists: "Why do women attach so much importance to working? What's so fulfilling about it?" — but he thinks he has changed. "People on movie sets and Amnesty shows remark that I am not easily flapped: I handle professional stress quite well, because work isn't very important to me. But if anyone I care about has a health problem or difficulty I don't have any great equilibrium. I revert to the old English way of getting tight and twitchy."

It is coping with death — "Dead parrot time" as he calls it — of a loved one that ultimately tests a person. "It would be nice to be able to handle it as well as Robin handled Prue's death." Or as the Dalai Lama dealt with the loss of four people he was closest to: "He told me it was all right: he said, 'I contemplate my own death ten times a day'."

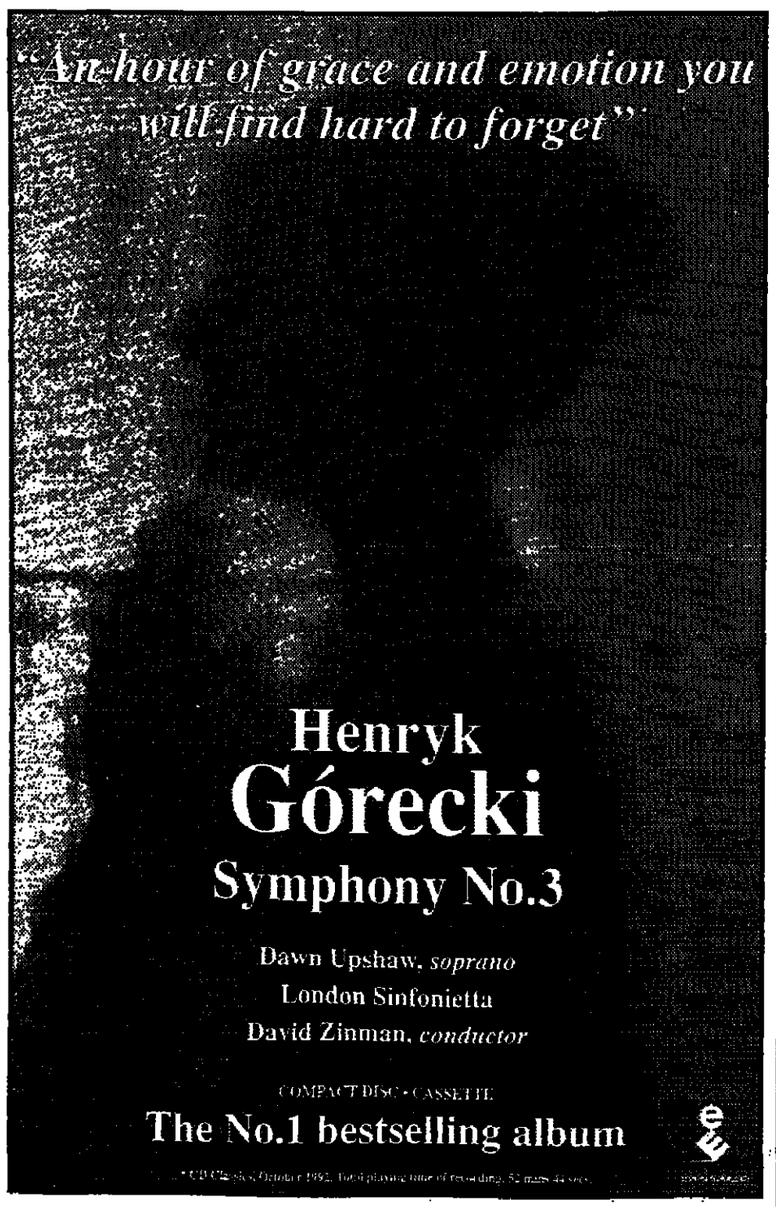
> 'The Ladakhis couldn't *believe* that people get so depressed they go to doctors'
>
> ROBIN SKYNNER

He thinks Dr Skynner's therapy group was his salvation. Dr Skynner long ago discovered that group and family work gives a fuller picture than seeing patients individually: he wanted to explore further "just as I used to dismantle alarm clocks as a child".

"That's rather what I felt about *Python*," says Cleese. He had stopped enjoying Python in the middle of the second series, feeling they had done their best stuff and were just recycling. "But they put a lot of pressure on me: they were onto a good thing and enjoying themselves and couldn't believe I didn't want to go on. But I watched a *Python* just last Sunday with my nine-year-old daughter [from his marriage to Barbara Trentham] — it was the one about the painting going on strike — and I thought it was *rotten*." Roars of laughter.

Self exploration has led Cleese to some commonly shared conclusions: that we all need more time for friends, keeping a journal, meditation and looking at paintings; that workaholism is not the answer to the mid-life crisis; being of having wasted time, that life is short. Readers will be able to discuss these themes at a Times/Dillons forum (details below).

Dr Anthony Clare says Cleese claims to have been freed of inhibitions by psychotherapy yet "his three marriages remain largely murky and unexposed areas of private emotion, for all the transatlantic-flavoured personal honesty". "True," says Cleese. "It's none of people's business. If I talk personally, it's to illustrate a point. My life and marriages have been recycled to death. I offered £10,000 to any newspaper which would give up mentioning me except in a work context and I got two offer — from the *Daily Sport* and the *Spectator*. I'd never heard of the *Daily Sport* so my secretary went out and got one, and on the front page there was a topless girl and, below, a story about stools, and I don't mean things you sit on. Really, we keep thinking we have got as low as we can go and then someone goes even lower."



Come to an evening with John Cleese

TO COINCIDE with publication of their new book, *Life and How to Survive It*, John Cleese and Robin Skynner will speak at a Times/Dillons forum on relationships beyond the the family. Drawing on the most modern research — from business studies, economics, religion, psychiatry, social science and politics — Cleese and Skynner will offer guidance on tactics for everyday survival; and how to retain individuality while cooperating successfully in joint endeavours.

Chaired by Brian Redhead, the forum will take place at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on February 24, at 7.30pm. Tickets — available from February 1 — can be obtained by completing the coupon below or contacting Dillons by phone, fax or in person.

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'I find it surprisingly easy. Soon Mr Conway and I are spinning round the floor to "Turkey in the Straw".' Helen Pickles samples the strictly ballroom



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Stand by your prime minister

Nicholas Wapshott on the performance of John Major's press secretary

In a casino in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, during the last Commonwealth Conference, a party of lobby correspondents were blowing their proprietors' expenses at the roulette tables. In the midst of them, relentlessly piling chips on the table, was Gus O'Donnell, the prime minister's press secretary. The night drew on and Mr O'Donnell, through judgment not luck, steadily took the casino to the cleaners.

The scene was not quite what it seemed. Mr O'Donnell is no gambler and a casino is hardly his natural habitat. His intention, however, was twofold: to show the gaggle of assorted hacks that he is one of the lads and game for fun; and to demonstrate the laws of probability on a roulette table without a zero. By firmly betting on either red or black only, and doubling his stake if the colour did not win, he won time after time.

When mayhem broke over John Major's party in India at the *New Statesman and Society*'s recycling of unsubstantiated speculation that Mr Major has committed adultery, the man who faced the press and their insistent questioning was Mr O'Donnell, a quiet, ordinary civil servant. Unlike his predecessor, Sir Bernard Ingham, Mr O'Donnell is a little-known character in British life. He is a non-political figure, a career civil servant whose steady upward progress in the Treasury was enhanced by Mr Major's meteoric rise. Now, caught in the midst of an extraordinary kerfuffle, it is being asked whether he is up to the job and whether the prime minister would not be better served by a man with more aggression and guile.

Greatness was thrust upon Gus O'Donnell. Having worked as an economist in the Treasury, he was made the chief press officer there when Nigel Lawson was Chancellor. To economics correspondents, used to obfuscation and denial, Mr O'Donnell was an instant success, an open, friendly, humorous, confident source at the Treasury. He was clearly on top of his subject and, among the gentlemanly corps of economics writers, he appeared a breath of fresh air. He struck the next Chancellor, John Major, the same way and it was little surprise when he was catapulted across Downing Street to inherit Margaret Thatcher's mantle that Mr O'Donnell followed him there.

Mr Major and Mr O'Donnell have a lot in common. They are both state-educated south Londoners, meritocrats who have risen to the top in institutions — the Treasury and the Conservative party — which have tended in the past to favour products of public schools. Mr O'Donnell is 38, a former pupil of Salesian College, Battersea, a graduate of Warwick University, an MA from Nuffield College, Oxford, and a lecturer in economics at Glasgow University. He lives with his wife Melanie and daughter Kirsty in Clapham.

TIM BISHOP



Very civil servant: Gus O'Donnell at the prime minister's shoulder in Downing Street. Now he faces his biggest test, dealing with intense speculation from the media

He and Mr Major share a laddish tendency, an apparent lack of seriousness about the affairs of state which makes both of them happier to talk about the latest Test score than the morning's Cabinet meeting. They both affect an ordinariness which can be misleading: while neither is devious, both are capable of more guile than their open-faced expressions might suggest. They are also personally close. While protocol demands that Mr O'Donnell keeps out of purely party political decision-making, he attends or is briefed upon everything the prime minister does.

Like Mr Major, Mr O'Donnell's appointment was in reaction to his immediate predecessor. Both were determined to bring an end to the dark days of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Ingham, when relations between No 10 and even the loyal Conservative press reached a record low. Mrs Thatcher cancelled her traditional Christmas drinks party for the lobby, stopped inviting them forward in her plane for champagne after a successful foreign tour and, in the final grim months, refused to face the writing press at all, allowing only TV cameras near her.

When Mr Major arrived at No 10, the appointment of Mr O'Donnell was intended to show that everything was back to normal. Mr O'Donnell returned the prime minister's press office to a non-partisan stance not seen since before Joe Haines, Harold Wilson's abrasive press secretary. Where Mr Ingham barked out his and his boss's version of events, ridiculing reporters who dared ask questions out of line and even denigrating dissenting ministers, Mr O'Donnell was sweet reason. One of the first things he did was abandon the ludicrous tradition of anonymity, "A government source says . . .".

In the first few weeks there is no doubt that Mr O'Donnell seemed naive. He would ask his journalist friends, "Do you think I told them too much?" or "Have I been a bit silly?". But before long he had learnt the ropes in a tricky business.

There is little more dangerous than saying nothing when dealing with journalists who can misinterpret the silence or who may be happy to print speculation in the absence of fact. It is in this light that Mr O'Donnell's remarks about Mr Major's alleged "mistress" must be judged. Mr Major, closely advised by Mr O'Donnell, had already prepared a battle plan in case such an accusation would be put, so how well has Mr O'Donnell served his master? In the lobby, silence has come to mean assent, so that was rejected. The option of shrugging off the report or refusing to be drawn on tittle-tattle, which Mr Ingham might have followed with success, was rejected in favour of a straight denial. Hence Mr O'Donnell said, "These allegations are completely untrue," which would seem a categorical denial. Plainly, however, this was not convincing enough for the story to have been killed stone dead; instead, Downing Street announced the rare step of the prime minister issuing a libel action against the *New Statesman*.

The issuing of the writ may act as a warning shot for other newspapers who already have or may be tempted to follow the *Statesman*'s lead, but it runs its own risks, for bringing a libel action to court is a most effective way of spotlighting a rumour and having it legitimately reported, regardless of the outcome. The prospect of either Mr Major or the woman in question attending court would be a dream for any popular newspaper editor.

Key events

● November 1990: John Major becomes prime minister. Some senior political journalists are reported to have been told by disgruntled Thatcherite MPs about allegations of his having a mistress.

● April 1991: *Private Eye* (average readership 822,000) notes the rumours.

● 1992: The London *Evening Standard* (readership 1,256,000), wonders why Claire Latimer is getting so much attention. *The Sunday Times* magazine (3,652,000) features caterer Claire Latimer in its A Life in the Day. *The Guardian* (1,293,000) diary asks: "What can it all mean?" *Scallywag* magazine (average readership unknown but very small) prints various allegations about Mr Major's private life.

● January 27, 1993: Steve Platt, the editor of *New Statesman and Society* (estimated average readership 107,800) puts the latest edition of his redesigned weekly magazine to press. One feature recycles the rumours. "We didn't send a press release out; instead, we faxed anybody who phoned for a copy. We also took copies to the House of Commons press gallery at three o'clock yesterday [Wednesday]."

● January 27, 23:18: The *New Statesman* story breaks at the Press Association. A copy of the article is faxed to Bombay — where Mr Major was — shortly after it appears at the Commons.

Mr Major is informed of the *New Statesman* article. A press briefing to British journalists is delayed. Shortly after midnight, Mr O'Donnell makes a formal denial of the allegations. A spokesman from Number Ten makes a similar statement.

● January 28: The story of Mr Major's denial of any illicit affair is run in the following newspapers: the *Daily Express* (3,965,000), the *Daily Mirror* (9,859,000), *The Sun* (10,021,000), *The Times* (1,098,000), *The Guardian* (1,293,000) and the *Daily Sport* (estimated readership 1,250,000). The *Daily Mail* (4,261,000) has a short denial by Mr Major

Mr Major instructs Biddle & Co to issue writs against *New Statesman and Society*, and *Scallywag*.

ROBIN HUNT

□ *Figures for readership are the last available averages from the National Readership Survey.*

Crossing borders of taste

When advertising becomes offensive

An eight-year-old girl in a bathing costume peeps provocatively over her shoulder, her bottom stuck out and the costume tucked up between her cheeks. This is not a piece of child pornography, but an advertising circular to publicise a leading children's wear design exhibition: *the 56th Mode Enfantine International* trade show which opens tomorrow in Paris.

A spokesman for Mothercare, who will be attending the exhibition, says: "It was irresponsible for the organisers to photograph a young child in this way." No representatives from Children's World, the children's wear chain owned by Boot's, will be attending. Tim Henshall, the company's advertising manager, says, "We felt that the use of a child in this way was inappropriate and offensive."

"I found this offensive," says Billy Machwinney, the joint executive creative director of J Walter Thompson. "Now the borders have come down in television, I fear we may see more of this."

Sylvie Chleq, the product manager for Mode Enfantine, expressed surprise at these reactions. "This advertisement was meant to be funny," she says. "We wanted to entice visitors to the show. But you must remember that this campaign was aimed at professionals. We would not have used this type of photograph for the general public."

Does this justify its use? "No, if it's offensive, it's offensive and that's it," says Caroline Crawford from the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). The ASA does not have guidelines on the exploitation of children. Any complaints they receive about a French advertisement would be assessed according to British standards and referred back to the ASA's counterpart in France, the Bureau de Verification de la Publicite (BVP), for investigation.

"We do not receive many cross-border complaints," Miss Crawford says. "We have never really had one on taste and decency before, so it's unclear how the mechanism would work."

Until the ASA or the BVP receives an official complaint, they can take no action. What is clear is the BVP's view. "We consider it to be an infringement of the French advertising self-regulatory rules and the International Chamber of Commerce code," says François Peruki, the head of investigations.

Mme Chleq had not heard of the ICC code. "We have had only 20 letters of complaint from just two countries out of the 70 our campaign was aimed at," she says. The two complaining countries were the UK and Germany. The next campaign has been modified. They will use the same girl, in the same pose, but show only her head and shoulders.

INGRID HUNT

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There is nothing to stop a man being chosen as secretary of the year

Take a letter, Mr B

Secretaries changed sex in the first quarter of this century. Until then men had monopolised the job, but the development of the typewriter, the increase in office work, the disappearance of men to the trenches and the need for newly emancipated women to find employment shifted the balance.

Now the male secretary is a rare bird (except when he is a senior civil servant assisting a government minister). Mary Overton, a senior management adviser at the Industrial Society, sees only a handful of men among the hundreds who attend the organisation's secretarial courses.

"Men are deterred by the image that the secretary is subservient, is always told what to do and that, once a secretary, always a secretary. The reality is quite different. Many secretaries have a very high profile in a company. They are the closest link with management and they need many skills: time management, being good with people, being able to use their initiative. They often do a lot of research and they frequently need creative keyboard skills. Men would love all that."

Keyboards may be the key to more men entering the field. Nancy Harris, the general manager of the Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries, which has 3,000 members of whom maybe a dozen are male, thinks the ratio may change. "At one time, sitting at a typewriter was considered feminine but now that everyone learns keyboard skills for computer use it's no longer seen as an odd thing for a man to do. Another factor is that there are more jobs in this field than in many others."



Great divide: computing teaches many men keyboard skills but few go on to be secretaries

Gabriel Cynston, 30, who temps for a firm of City stockbrokers, came into secretarial work via his interest in word processing. "That's what I like best. I'm a bit of reluctant secretary, but most of the work available is secretarial. I'm normally the only bloke in an office but I'm used to that now. I don't see why there shouldn't be more men doing the job."

Top secretaries can earn £25,000-£30,000 a year but Ms Overton believes that men will not be attracted to the job unless its image changes. "Secretaries are their own worst enemies, they're always saying 'I'm just', or 'I'm only a secretary'."

Jennie Ashplant, the manager at a branch of the Alfred Marks employment agency in Euston, north London, has four men among the 100-plus secretaries on her books. "They are rare but they tend to be top notch. I still hear the surprise at the other end of the phone when I put a man forward for a temp's job. But afterwards employers say: 'Let me have him back'. It seems to work particularly well if you get a man working for a woman. It's to do with developing a good relationship."

She thinks men are as likely as women to undertake such traditional support services as watering the plants. "Some women are less willing to do that now. It is more a question of nature than of gender."

LIZ GILL

Have you got what it takes to be top?

Entries are invited for *The Times* Professional Secretary of the Year Awards 1993, sponsored by *The Times* and organised by The London Secretary & Office Management Show in association with the Industrial Society, the European Association of Professional Secretaries and RSA.

The awards are designed to seek out and reward professional secretaries (of either sex) in the UK, who have appropriate personal and technical skills and business experience. Entrants will be asked to complete a detailed CV, including references, submit two case studies with supporting documents to show their professional abilities, and, as a "tie-breaker", to define professionalism and what it means to them in the workplace.

Finalists will be invited to the Industrial Society in London on Monday, March 22, for skills testing and an interview with the judging panel. The winner and five runners-up will be presented with their awards on the first day of The London Secretary & Office Management Show on Tuesday, March 30, at the Barbican Centre in London.

First prize is a holiday package for two courtesy of Swissair and Holiday Inn, £500 of clothes from Next Directory, plus a secretarial development course with The Industrial Society. The runners-up will receive hotel breaks for two, courtesy of Holiday Inn, plus vouchers from Next and The Industrial Society.

How to enter: Entries must be completed on the official entry form available from Peter Haill & Associates, organisers of The London Secretary & Office Management Show, by telephoning 071-915 0054, or in writing to Peter Haill & Associates, Victoria House, 98 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JH.

Entry forms must be returned by Friday, March 5. The competition is not open to employees of Peter Haill & Associates or Times Newspapers.

THE TIMES

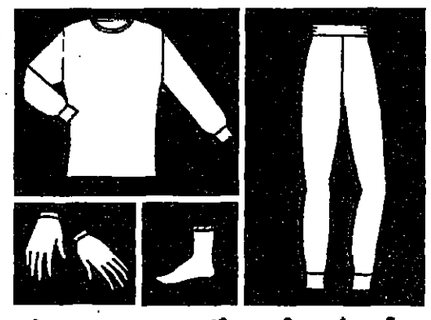
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Medium	33-35in	12-14
Large	36-38in	16-18
XL	39-41in	20-22

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Janet Daley



■ The obsession with innuendo and gossip in the press is a consequence of an arrogant and secretive ruling class

How has it come to this? A journal once thought to be an estimable organ of political debate is served with a libel writ by the prime minister for publishing a collection of smutty and unfounded innuendos about his private life. The story as printed consists of nothing but second-hand scraps of rumour, and unsubstantiated in-jokes which the authors admit have been around in political circles for years. This very fact, oddly, is what provides the excuse for a cut-out-and-keep compilation being offered to the public.

"Look," the article says, "all of this has been well-known gossip for ages. It has been so widely circulated that encrypted references are made to it right under your nose but they are only decipherable by those in the know." What the article represents, by its own account, is a layman's guide to decoding the discourse of the governing classes.

The ironies in this case are myriad. The high-minded weekly in question — *The New Statesman* — is well known for taking itself very seriously indeed. Having moved from old to new left over the last generation, it would naturally incline toward priggishness and supercilious contempt for the tabloids which, from its usual po-faced perspective would be seen as the great traducers of working-class integrity. *The New Statesman*, for all its social libertarianism, is surely in the roundhead camp when it comes to seeing claims of scandal as the stuff of political coverage.

How then does it find itself the first publication in a generation to be sued for libel by a sitting prime minister? Harold Wilson once sued a pop group for baseless allusions in a song to impropriety in his relationship with his secretary. But that was in the 1960s when impertinence from pop singers and satirists was the cause of much sombre warning of moral collapse. The pop group, in the spirit of the times, was being cheeky. Irreverence to anyone in power was seen to be its own political justification. The important (and the self-important) personages who felt threatened by this lack of deference could persuade themselves that their outrage and their injunctions were serving an honourable purpose: to defend the civilised order.

What exactly did *The New Statesman* see itself as doing when it warmed up a puerile dish of gnomic diary items and mysterious insinuations? If you believe its editor who co-authored the piece, it was performing a public service. By fitting otherwise meaningless bits of a puzzle — inscrutable utterances by John Major's *Spitting Image* puppet; surprising gobbets of press publicity for an unknown female figure — into a comprehensible pattern, it was demonstrating to ordinary readers just how little they really know about backstage Westminster.

Let us dismiss as unworthy the suggestion that *The New Statesman* was simply making a desperate, barrel-scraping plunge into the mire in the hope of increasing its poor circulation. The official case for publishing what it did deserves attention. What it has to say to ordinary people (whose recent leap in status must be quite dazzling) amounts to this: not only do your rulers have their own incestuous channels of communication but they compound this undemocratic hoarding of information with waggish arrogance.

Insiders of the political club, pundits and politicians alike, are actually talking to one another all the time in a coded private language. Their contempt for Ordinary People is such that this private dialogue may be carried on in full public view even when that means that what is being offered for general consumption is rendered utterly mystifying. So total is the divorce between what insiders understand and what outsiders perceive that nonsense is made of the idea that the press is reporting what it actually sees and hears, in order to inform an electorate which genuinely needs to know what is going on. The reason why the pundits cannot report what they really hear, or even what they might definitively know, much of the time is because of the statutory fortress which ensures secrecy and suppression at every level of political life, from the tittle-tattle that is protected by the libel laws, to the highest reaches of government mismanagement which are shielded by the Official Secrets Act.

> Political insiders talk to each other in code

Those literary theorists who search for subtexts could have a field day with *The New Statesman* article. While it is itself part of the sleaze epidemic, it is also a diagnosis of the disease. Apparently despairing of the country's incurable secrecy and the infantile taste for silly news coverage which it breeds, *The New Statesman* plunges into the muck itself and splashes frenetically. "You see!" it says. "This is what even we have been driven to."

Whether you accept its rationale or not, there is more to this argument than a recitation of salacious gossip. Someone in high office ought to pause before letting fly with another writ and ask whether the obsession with sexual scandal in the British press and among its readers is not a direct result of the patronising controls which are placed on information which matters more.



Masons: a final solution

Today's private member's bill on secret societies stains our democracy

Bernard Levin

Oh dear, it's the Masons again. I suppose you know that they get together to grab all the best jobs and houses, and take over businesses by underhand methods, and do down anyone who criticises them, and indulge in sinister rituals which involve them rolling their trousers up even when they are not going paddling. But did you know that they are plotting to take over the world, starting next Wednesday? Oh, yes, it's true; a man I met in a pub had heard it from his neighbour, who had been told it by a woman he sat next to on a bus, and she had found out about it from her postman, who knew because he had met a man in a filling-station who knew all about it. Ooh, there's nothing the Masons wouldn't get up to if they felt like it, mark my words.

Every two or three years, this spavined nag is trotted out, and it is the very devil to get it back into its stall. And I should know, because more than once I have been enlisted in the defence, much against my wishes (I have better things to busy myself with), when the sea of imaginary allegations was rising. And that sea was no little municipal baths; at one time, when the fit was on them, the leaders of some of the London boroughs started dismissing known Freemasons from their employ, not for any misbehaviour or incompetence but solely because they were Freemasons.

Freemasonry hysteria is a disease that has had too little serious medical examination: it is parallel to the same principles as those of anti-Semitism, and indeed it has often been, to a very considerable extent, a stalking-horse for the more ancient vileness. It could hardly be otherwise: attacks on suspect Jewry have almost always been inextricably entwined with anti-Freemasonry. Hitler lumped them together without distinction of any kind — I recall, from a book about the Third Reich, a photograph of a huge banner, swastika-adorned, strung over a central thoroughfare in Berlin, reading "*Gegen Juden und Freimauer!*" ("Down with Jews and Freemasons!"). The reason that Jews and Freemasons are easy targets for this odious prejudice is that just as Jews can be accused of keeping together, a trait which can be instantly dubbed sinister, so equally can the Masons' privacy be similarly categorised. (If you don't mind me saying so, what the gentiles have done to Jews over the centuries suggests that they would be very wise indeed to keep together, and for extra safety to do the keeping behind locked doors, letting in only Freemasons, and even then only if they can remember the password.)

The hysteria that can be summoned up about Freemasonry comes close to genuine lunacy. There was a man called Stephen Knight, now dead, who was the author of a number of more or less demented books about the evils of Freemasonry; one of his tales (charmingly subtitled *The Final Solution*) proved, at least to his own satisfaction, that "Jack the Ripper" was a group of Masons who did the murders to hush up a royal scandal, that the conspiracy was led by Freemasons in the very highest quarters of the land, and that the bodies of the people they killed were mutilated by having Masonic insignia carved into their flesh.

In another of his crazy books, this one subtitled *The Secret World of the Masons*, he told the world that he had written to the then Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the president of the Family division of the High Court and the vice-chancellor of the Chancery division, demanding to know whether they were Freemasons, and when three of the four ignored his missive and the fourth said it had no relevance to his post, he was plainly convinced that there was a Masonic conspiracy among the land's highest judges.

But why do I rake over these embers today? Because the bellows are once again being plied, and plied this time in the House of Commons. Christopher ("call me Chris") Mullin, MP, along with half a dozen other MPs of all parties, is promoting a private member's bill, to be debated today, which would compel Freemasons to declare their sinister connection if they fell into certain categories which, under Mr Mullin's proposals, they may not enter unannounced. To be on the safe side, Mr Mullin has dressed his odious campaign in a measure called the Secret Societies (Declaration) Bill, and the word Freemason does not figure in its text; but it is clear that the Masons will bear the brunt if the bill is passed; I have never come across any denunciation of comparable privacy.

Now pause for a moment and imagine a Jewish organisation, its members gathering regularly for, say, eleemosynary purposes which they reasonably wished confidential; what would you think of a law which compelled any member of the group to state, under penalty, that he *was* a Jew, if he was also — and these are the categories that are listed in Mr Mullin's bill — "the occupant of, or candidate to, a public office or a post in a public service"?

That was not a rhetorical question, and I would be obliged if you would stop what you are doing for a moment and think of your answer. Just what would you think of such a law? Surely such a custom will seem a little odd when Mr Mullin gets his legislation, will it not? No, Mr Mullin is *not* anti-Semitic; the worst that can be said of him is that he doesn't think very clearly. (None of this detracts from his tenacious campaigning for the release of innocent men from prison, which is wholly to his credit.)

But there is worse to come. Mr Mullin recently asked the prime minister at question time whether he, the PM, was still of the opinion that he had publicly held in 1986 (by filling in a questionnaire on the matter); the opinion "that police officers, magistrates, Members of Parliament, councillors and other public officials who were Masons should disclose that fact". Only Masons, you note; Mr Mullin later tried to tie the PM to his secret societies bill, as indeed he is trying to tie the Masons to anything secret that he can lay his hands on, to disguise the fact that the thrust is, and is manifestly intended to be, against the Masons. What John Major thought he was doing in the first place in committing himself to conduct so shameful I cannot imagine, but at least he could now have repudiated his folly, made a full apology and declared that Mr Mullin's measure stains both our democracy and the land it encompasses, which indeed it does. Our PM did no such thing, but said "It remains my personal view."

Right, then; a special question for the prime minister. If he really holds the view he has expressed concerning Masons, would he equally countenance a measure requiring Catholics in, say, a private trust, as above, holding such public offices, to be obliged to state that they were Catholics, *and if not, why not?* As far as I can see, he can either say that Masons, and the Catholics in my example, are in the same boat, and must be treated equally by the measures of the Mullin bill, or he can repudiate the Catholic half of the argument and say that Freemasons alone must pass the test, though the Mullin bill would catch both. And if he wriggles, saying that there is no suggestion in his mind that Freemasons cannot be trusted, he will have to answer a supplementary: if that is so, why does he personally endorse the principles of the bill?

Do you know how he will answer that one? I do, I am sorry to say. He will, after he has stopped spluttering, say that of course Freemasons are as honest and reputable as anyone else, but, you see, unfortunately a lot of people, quite erroneously, nay, altogether absurdly if not indeed ludicrously, preposterously and ridiculously, *do* think that Freemasons are dishonest, and just to be on the safe side — because we wouldn't want the public to remain uneasy, would we? — we shall make them pass an extra test. And surely the Freemasons themselves would welcome such a test to clear the air? So everyone will go home happy, particularly the Masons, who will continue with their plan to take over the world, until, that is, Mr Mullin gets around to them. (Actually, the PM will do nothing of the kind; he will not be in the Commons when the bill is being discussed.).

I trust, though, that there will be enough sensible and honourable MPs in the house today to ensure that this rancid bill, and its even more rancid purpose, is thrown out. If they waver, I ask them this question: "Do you know that there is not one word in Mr Mullin's bill which explains why it is being introduced, let alone what evil it is supposed to cure?"

By the way: have you heard that 90 per cent of drug-dealers are Freemasons? Oh, yes, it's well known.

Israel and double standards

The Arab case is wrong, says Conor Cruise O'Brien

Both Iraq and Israel have recently been in the news for violating United Nations Security Council resolutions. For these breaches, the two offenders have been treated very differently. Iraq was bombed. Israel has not been punished in any way, though the security council may vote for some kind of sanctions, unless President Clinton decides to use the veto.

Throughout the Arab world, people are angry at what they regard as a lamentable display of double standards. That is understandable. I should feel the same way, if I were an Arab. But what is surprising is that the complaint about double standards should have been heard during last week's Commons debate from several MPs, including at least one Conservative.

Who exactly is supposed to be guilty of double standards? Certainly not the security council. It condemned Iraq, for obstructing the UN inspection teams, and it condemned Israel, for deporting the 400 members of Hamas to Lebanon. No; the people who applied the double standards, in my opinion quite rightly, were the United States, Britain and France. They responded to Israel's deportations only verbally, but to Iraq's obstruction by the use of force.

The reason for this discrepancy ought to be clear to the most obtuse MP. Iraq's obstruction of the UN inspection teams in their search for nuclear-related technology is a threat to the vital interests of the West. If Saddam Hussein had found that he could get away with that, he would have gone ahead with the acquisition of the nuclear weaponry he so craves. (He would already have such weapons if Israel's air force had not destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor, Osirak, in 1981, an action for which Israel was roundly condemned at the time by pretty well everybody.)

Once securely in possession of nuclear weapons, Saddam would have felt free to reannex Kuwait, convinced — probably correctly — that there would be no repetition of Desert Storm. The need to prevent the emergence of a nuclear-armed Iraqi dictatorship in possession of a monopoly of Arab oil surely provides an ample rationale for the air strikes against Iraqi targets. And they worked. Saddam has backed down. If he tries again, he must again be forced to desist.

Israel's action in deporting the Hamas members, an act which its High Court has now backed, is regrettable, but poses no threat whatever to Western interests. It will be argued that it poses an indirect threat. Arab anger at the deportation of these innocent Palestinians will turn them against the West, which they would otherwise love and cherish. This type of argument is heard whenever Israel does anything to annoy the Arabs. In the present context, however, it is especially incongruous and absurd.

No Arab state is prepared to take in these innocent Palestinians, whose persecution at the hands of Israel all the Arab states affect to deplore. In reality they regard these Hamas members in much the same light as Israel does: as dangerous fundamentalist extremists. Such people are an even greater threat to Arab governments than they are to the state of Israel, and some have dealt with them far more ruthlessly than Israel.

In February 1982, when the Syrian city of Hama was held by Muslim fundamentalists in defiance of President Assad's secular regime, Syria's defence brigades stormed the city. A journalist not unsympathetic to the Syrian regime, Patrick Seale, estimates that 25,000 people were slaughtered in the sack of Hama. That event aroused far less international attention and sympathy than Israel's deportation of approximately 400 persons of the same type; a little touch of double standards there too perhaps.

The security council itself has never had the power to implement its resolutions. The UN Charter makes provision, on paper, for collective enforcement, but the military staffs committee contemplated in the Charter was never set up. In effect, the five permanent members kept the decision whether to implement or not in their own hands. The council can only hand down curses and blessings: curses on violators of Charter provisions and blessings on states which will undertake to punish the accursed. If there are no volunteers for the punishment role, the curse will be inoperative.

Thus, when the security council cursed Argentina for its seizure of the Falklands in 1982 nothing in particular would have followed had not Mrs Thatcher taken the resolution as a blessing on the task force. Many resolutions are left unimplemented for lack of volunteers, and Israel is by no means the only country to benefit.

President Clinton wants neither to vote for sanctions against Israel nor to apply the veto. He should be able, by the use of procedural devices, by deferring the vote, and by twisting the arms of both Israel and security council members, to avoid doing either. This will be an interesting test of the new president's diplomatic capacity.

Absent friends?

JOHN Major may not have quite perfected the art of avoiding the political banana skin, but he appears to be learning: the prime minister is expected to be a high-profile absentee from next weekend's Young Conservatives conference.

Given that he has attended both other YC conferences held since he became prime minister — notably stopping off en route to one at a Happy Eater for a cooked breakfast — his absence is curious. More so, as this year's thrash is held in that bastion of Essex-Tory, Southend.

Could his non-appearance be connected with the fact that next Friday, the eve of the Southend conference, is the very day that the 62 staff due to be made redundant from Conservative Central Office learn their fate? The party machine that sets off down the A12 will be a slimmed-down one.

Tory officials insist that Major's absence has nothing to do with embarrassment over the timing of the job cuts, which are intended to reduce the party's £15 million deficit. "There are just too many conferences," an official said. "He cannot go to all of them." And although the prime minister may not be there, the YCs will have some notable speeches to interrupt their carousing. Peter Lilley, Peter Brooke, Virginia Bottomley, Tony Newton, Michael Howard and John MacGregor are all speaking, as is Sir Norman Fowler, who as party chairman is closely involved with deciding which of the Central Office staff will be axed.

But one potential departee from Smith Square is not impressed: "Southend is only a short drive from Downing Street. Having been praised to the skies for our role in winning the election, those who are going to Southend will find it hard to give 100 per cent. They will be thinking about where the next job comes from or about the friends they have left behind in London who are being sacked. I cannot see many of us strolling down the 'prom' with kiss-me-quick hats and candy floss."

Double trouble

NOT only John Major is baying for the blood of Steve Platt, the *New Statesman*'s editor. David Hill, director of communications for the Labour party, has written to Platt demanding an apology for an article in last week's issue, in which Platt alleged that Hill leaked an internal Labour party report.

Hill is impatiently awaiting Platt's reply: "The letter was sent 48 hours ago and I still haven't received a reply. It is absolutely untrue that the paper was leaked by me. I am seeking a full apology or I will be taking legal action."

● *WITH commendably Titanic spirit the* New Statesman *partied on last night with a bash in the House of Commons to celebrate its relaunch. Controversy, of course, there was in abundance, but guests hungry for food rather than the latest gossip were disappointed. "We do the food ourselves," said one staffer. "We've just thrown a few peanuts in a few bowls. We're not that big on catering."*

DIARY

Freehold radical

DUDLEY Fishburn, MP for Kensington, has been voted "radical of the year" by the Radical Society for his work on leasehold reform, encapsulated in the Housing and Urban Development Bill, which next month returns to the Commons after its committee stage. The society's chairman, Professor Stephen Haseler, professor of government at London Guildhall University, says Fishburn was chosen for "giving people the right to own their own homes".

Fishburn, who will be given the award in March, was chosen by the society's committee, which includes such luminaries as Professor Norman Stone, Baroness Cox, Lord Tebbit and Brian Walden.

Fishburn is tangibly pleased. "I'm very chuffed, but I'll be more pleased when it becomes law. For a long time I've been campaigning in the wilderness." Which is where, no doubt, London's big freeholders would have preferred him to stay. Stuart Corbyn, chief executive of the Cadogan Estate, says: "I could think of many more appropriate titles but they are unrepeatable."

Pull another one

BILL Clinton's political tastes may be a little different from that of George Bush, but they share an uncannily common taste in curtain material. Even more surprisingly, they share a common supplier in the shape of Busby & Busby, a small six-person operation based in Blandford, Dorset.

Nick Busby is delighted that his products are, once again, to hang in a reception room of the White House. "Three years ago President Bush chose an oyster-coloured wild silk called Spenser — spelt with an S, after the poet," he says. "All our silks are named after poets from Bygrave's Golden Treasury. President Clinton's silk is called Rosetti — it's a rusty rose-coloured fabric, with a wild weave like the Spenser." Fresh out of Angelou, presumably.



Bear facts

WITH the patience of a born diplomat, Raymond Seitz, the American Ambassador, has coped magnificently with the endless stream of polite enquiries as to his future following the arrival of President Clinton. Is the strain finally beginning to tell?

On Wednesday night guests attending a private party at Winfield House, Seitz's home in Regent's Park, waited in line to be announced. As each guest approached the master of ceremonies, few could resist a whispered "is he staying?". To each enquiry, the flunkey merely inclined his head and pointed to a nearby table upon which sat a large teddy bear proudly bearing the request: "Don't ask".

● *THEY may have lost the debate against the selectors but David Gower's supporters in the MCC have done nothing but good for their hero's literary career. The third print run of* Gower — The Autobiography *has just sold out (flashing outside the off-stump?) bringing hardback sales to 39,000. The paperback, with a new chapter on Gower's omission from the tour of India, will be published in April — just in time to inflame this year's cricket season.*

هكذا من الأخبار

HURD'S TROUBLED WORLD

The foreign secretary's speech may be firmer than it looks

Douglas Hurd's great predecessor, Lord Palmerston, gave one of his most famed contributions to the quotations dictionary during the debate on the Treaty of Adrianople in 1848. "We have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow," he said. Mr Hurd's address to the Royal Institute of International Affairs this week echoed this theme.

The Foreign Secretary purveyed less imperial certainty than did Palmerston (as well he might have) but he did show an admirably balanced grasp of the issues. He described the palimpsest of British interests, some shifting, some fundamental, all requiring fresh examination in each generation, never more so than now in the wake of the Cold War. The speech, less pacific than some have made it seem, marked a considerable advance on his perplexed ruminations to Foreign Office staff at the New Year.

Mr Hurd has always seen the Bosnian conflict through the historical prism of the Eastern Question which so preoccupied Palmerston, his European contemporaries and his successors for much of the 19th century. That debate about how to contain nationalist ferment in the Balkan power vacuum created by the decay of the Ottoman empire finds its direct echo today in the uncertainties and disorders consequent on the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Mr Hurd's appeal for concerted action, in "an effort comparable to those of 1815, 1919 and the years after 1945 ... to avert a continuing slide into disorder" across the world gives no quarter to those who would have Britain's interests narrowly reinterpreted. His assessment of the limits to the capacities of the United Nations and the other institutions of collective order apart from Nato is shrewd. His analysis of Britain's modern role proceeds, logically enough, from the straightforward imperatives of defending British territory to Britain's continued interest, which he firmly maintains, in collective security against the lawless "obliteration of one state by another". The obligation to uphold the rule of law was, as he reminded his audience, what had drawn Britain into three major wars this century.

What makes all this more than a routine *tour d'horizon* is the grey areas between. Most of the conflicts of today and tomorrow will lack the black and white clarity of stopping Hitler, or Stalin, or Saddam Hussein. Mr Hurd is clear that Britain, which exports twice as much of its gross domestic product as Japan, cannot neglect its interest in "a safer and more decent world": anarchy interferes with trade, generally involves appalling human rights abuses and unchecked, has a tendency to lead to wider conflict. But how is Britain to determine priorities with some measure of consistency?

In some countries, such as Cambodia or Somalia, Britain may have no direct interest but the humanitarian catastrophe may be on such a scale that duty compels involvement. Mr Hurd views with what seems to be despondency the jolt to popular sensibilities administered by the hand-held cameras of the world's press. When "the air is full of the eloquence of many Gladstones (and) each new tragedy as it is revealed brings its Midlothian campaign", he fears that demands on British wealth and military power could rapidly exceed its capacity to respond.

No doubt the old Foreign Office hand in Mr Hurd regrets that diplomacy in the global village is no longer the exclusive preserve of experts, and that sense, meaning strict *Realpolitik*, may on occasion be subordinated to public sensibility. But he could have chosen a happier instance than the Midlothian campaign for his somewhat dismissive reference to the nuisance value of public outrage at human misery.

The precursor to the Bulgarian atrocities which brought Gladstone out of retirement and onto the Midlothian hustings in protest was an uprising in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which spread to Bulgaria and was cruelly suppressed by the Turks. Despite the public indignation, the European powers did little until Russia weighed in on the side of its fellow-Slavs. Western Europe's failure first to avert and then to contain the conflict in the former Yugoslavia today haunts this speech.

Mr Hurd is evidently torn between his recognition that Western resolve in the face of the new disorder is here under test, and his reluctance to stake all against heavy opposition in the cabinet to British military involvement in restoring peace. The logic of his arguments cracks under the strain. He suggests, for example, that the world "would regard it as simply frivolous" were the European Community to abandon its common policy towards this issue. What common policy is there beyond a general yearning for the problem to go away?

Mr Hurd seems to place his entire confidence in the success of the Owen-Vance peace negotiations. Yet he does not, yet, will the means to this end. He must see that fear of international intervention brought Serbia to change its public stance, and also that these talks could be dragged down to failure by continued carnage. He must see too that promises by the parties to disengage their forces will be worth nothing unless they are internationally policed, under a mandate much firmer than that for the UN peacekeeping operations in Croatia, whose "defects and weaknesses" he rightly criticises. If such a force is to be available either in support of an ultimatum to bring negotiations to a head, or to implement an agreement without dangerous delay, it must be prepared now.

Mr Hurd appears to be waiting for America, whose support and probable participation he believes, with reason, to be indispensable to every major international undertaking. Yet this is one occasion when geography gives Europeans special responsibility to guide American thinking, responsibility reinforced for Britain in particular by the arrival in office of a new American administration. British reluctance to be part of collective security in the Balkans cannot be part of the solution. No doubt the British army, in the throes of reorganisation and retrenchment under the Options for Change programme, would be taxed to find another 3-5,000 appropriately equipped frontline troops. But an army of 148,000 can surely still meet a commitment trivial by comparison with the demands of the Cold War.

Here is an urgent case against which to set the foreign secretary's call for a searching examination of British diplomacy, its armed forces, the uses of its wealth and its view of its place in the world. Mr Hurd should hardly have needed to say that British forces are not necessary, and could not be expected to act, in every contingency. He is eloquent on the theme that Britain has influence and, yes, power to "play a worthy part" in the joint effort to contain disorder he believes to be needed. He has set out an admirably argued case. He has only to bridge the gap between principle and practice in Bosnia.

MR SMITH'S STANDARDS

The Labour leader has chosen a fine theme for an Opposition

Most people claim that standards have fallen, whether in the classroom, in courtesy or in public life. Everyone thinks they can remember a time when grammar was not abused, shop assistants were polite and ministers resigned when they made mistakes. Thus John Smith's broadside on the ethical standards of this government strikes a chord. The question is whether this administration is indeed worse than any other, or whether nostalgia simply bathes the Attlee, Macmillan or Wilson eras in a misleadingly golden glow.

"The concept of responsibility," claims Mr Smith, "has been ... replaced by a different code — survival." There is apparent truth in that. Despite a string of mistakes, the forced withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism, the plans for pit closures and the Matrix Churchill affair, no minister has accepted responsibility and resigned. The only resignation, David Mellor's, stemmed from revelations about his private life and was forced upon him by backbenchers after he had clung to office for weeks by his fingertips.

Mr Smith also points to the undesirable pressures put on civil service impartiality by one party holding power for a whole generation. Certainly the attempt by officials to circumvent guidelines and protect ministers in the Matrix Churchill affair was disturbing, as was their role in trawling immigration files for evidence to damage Bill Clinton.

But that does not prove a trend. Sir Samuel Hoare, who was forced out of office in 1935 to save the government's face over the Hoare-Laval pact, wrote late in life, "it is a safe course in public life never to abdicate. Stick to the position." And Sydney Smith quipped: "Ministers have a great deal of patience but no resignation." According to Sir Ian Gilmour, writing 24 years ago in *The Body Politic*, "the theory of ministerial responsibility ... is now as implausible as was Divine Right in the 17th century".

Even in the 19th century ministerial resignations over mistakes were uncommon. By the 1960s, such actions were rarer still. Resignation in such circumstances suggests that a mistake has been made. In modern democratic politics, where personal image is of such overpowering importance, confession of error can be much more fatal than error itself. Ministers will defend the actions of their civil servants in Parliament, but neither the politician nor the official is generally punished for the mistake.

Men have occasionally resigned office on a point of honour. Sir Thomas Dugdale did so over Crichel Down, as did Lord Carrington when his department failed to anticipate the invasion of the Falklands. Lord Callaghan left the Treasury when the pound was devalued, though he was immediately rewarded with the Home Office. In a different age Norman Lamont might have felt slightly more bound to resign after Black Wednesday. But, at all times, honourable men and women have tended to be the exception rather than the rule in politics.

It should be no surprise then that remedies are sought which rely on more than the conscience of individual ministers. Mr Smith has suggested some solutions. He thinks that civil servants should be protected by a published code of conduct, requiring them to resist pressure to put party interest before that of the nation: that greater scrutiny of the executive by Parliament and some devolution from the centre to the regions would dilute the accretions of power so jealousy guarded by central government. There are attractions here. Whether they would survive any translation of Mr Smith from opposition to government remains moot.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Cabinet moves on unemployment

From Mr Ian J. Hartill

Sir, I hope that the thoughtful letter from Mr David Howell, MP (January 21), is met by an adequate response by the Cabinet committee on unemployment. For the last 50 years successive British governments have made many policy errors in pursuit of a single economic problem, first, exchange rates and secondly inflation.

There are now signs that unemployment is becoming the dominant economic issue and that new policy errors will be made in trying to cure it.

Since 1979 profound changes have taken place in the labour market, many of them spontaneously, which have been unplanned, uncontrolled, not understood and have uncertain social consequences. In 1979 there were 12.3 million men in full-time paid employment; now there are fewer than 10 million.

It is the proud boast of the government that in spite of this the total numbers in employment have increased. The bulk of the compensatory increase, however, has been in the form of part-time badly paid work for women and self-employment for men.

Most of the new self-employed are not entrepreneurs but men driven to self-employment because they have no alternative; in most cases they earn less than they did as full-time employees.

There has been a huge increase in the numbers of workers whose employment conditions are precarious, arising from part-time work, the growth of short-term contracts and contracting out.

The balance of power in the employer/employee relationship has, for the majority, been shifted decisively in favour of the employer. There is widespread unease about the loss of jobs in manufacturing.

Before there is any rush into palliative measures to reduce unemployment, the Cabinet committee must carefully consider these and other issues.

Yours faithfully,
IAN HARTILL,
10 Hookwater Road,
Chandler's Ford,
Eastleigh, Hampshire.
January 22.

From Mr Peter Ashby

Sir, In the wake of the staggering increase in the jobless figures (report, January 22), it is disappointing that the prime minister himself is not heading the new Cabinet committee on unemployment. Without John Major's personal involvement the committee is in danger of agreeing crisis management measures rather than a radical strategy which can endure.

The time has come for the government to introduce a new deal for long-term unemployed people, based on the principle of reciprocal obligations. In return for enhanced benefit, everyone who reaches the stage of being unemployed for 18 months should be required to undertake temporary work, in either the private or the public sector. Such a contract would reintegrate unemployed people with the labour market and bring significant advantages to the economy.

But the case for prime ministerial action is not, first and foremost, economic. The overwhelming case is a moral one.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ASHBY
(Principal Consultant),
Full Employment UK,
79 Prince George Road, N16.
January 22.

Applause, please

From Miss Stella Godden

Sir, Further evidence of hand-clapping in Roman times (letter, January 20) is contained in the biography of the Emperor Nero by Suetonius, in his work *The Twelve Caesars*.

He recounts how the emperor, being captivated by the rhythmic applause of a crowd of Alexandrians from a visiting fleet, recruited a claque of knights and 5,000 youths to applaud his own stage performances. The group was divided into "bees", "roof-tiles" and "bricks". In a footnote to his translation, Robert Graves explains that the "bees" made a humming noise, the "roof-tiles" clapped with their hollowed hands and the "bricks" flat-handed.

Yours faithfully,
STELLA GODDEN,
21 Fairby Road, Lee, SE12.

Value for money in small museums

From Mr Kenneth Hudson

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article on Dulwich Picture Gallery ("Guarding art's little gems", January 23) was heartwarming. The small art galleries, as he says, are "more intimate, less exhausting, more fun". They do not produce the "millions of glazed eyes" which may be observed in the National Gallery, the Metropolitan and the Louvre.

The director of the Museums and Galleries Commission (letter, January 14) refers to "our best museums", to the need "to ensure that money going into museums is spent to good effect", "to concentrate on looking after what we already have rather than creating new museums", and to "securing the future of internationally important collections through endowments from the national lottery". He appears to be thinking mainly of the welfare of what I might call the museum-cathedrals, with the implication that in these hard times the parish churches must be content to starve and quite possibly to die. I hope this is not what he meant.

A museum world populated only by large museums in the major cities is an exceedingly depressing thought. I am convinced that the larger the museum the lower its cost-effectiveness and the productivity of its staff, and the smaller the proportion of objects in its care which are on display to the public at any one time. New ideas rarely start in big museums. They are born in the less well-known places, which have to be innovative and entrepreneurial in order to attract their public and to survive.

A careful look at each museum's cost-per-visitor would produce many surprises and not a few scandals. Public awareness, public education and public enjoyment are what matter most, not vague concepts such as safeguarding the national heritage. What matters is the use that museums make of their collections, not the fact that they have them.

If and when we have a national lottery and if some part of the profit finds its way towards museums, I should like to see at least half the total being earmarked for the area museum councils and through them shared among the smaller museums well away from London. Half to the cathedrals and half to the parish churches seems a very fair balance to me.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH HUDSON,
Director, European
Museum of the Year Award,
PO Box 913, Bristol BS99 5ST.

From Lord Campbell of Croy

Sir, Simon Jenkins recalls the "outcry" in 1971 when the Dulwich Picture Gallery sold a Domenichino. The outcry, I suggest, was about the intention to sell at all, rather than the outcome of the sale.

Since I was the purchaser of the picture, I can provide some reassurance on that. It was in my capacity as secretary of state for Scotland that I was successful in the bidding on behalf of the National Gallery of Scotland. Consequently the Domenichino did not go abroad, but has been a much appreciated addition in the gallery in Edinburgh, where it fitted perfectly into the collection.

After the sale in 1971, when apparently a Jenkins "sugar daddy" was not on hand, there was some satisfaction that Dulwich had received the money it needed and that the picture was still accessible for the public to see in Britain, having simply moved from one capital city to another.

Yours faithfully,
CAMPBELL of CROY,
House of Lords.

From Mr Gerald Owen, QC

Sir, Unless my memory deceives me the study by Rembrandt accompanying Simon Jenkins's excellent article is facing the wrong way. Perhaps you should have titled it: "Girl in a mirror."

Yours etc,
GERALD OWEN,
3 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4.
January 23.

Chocks away, tally ho! Biggles fans

From Mr Roy Lee-Faulkner

Sir, So Biggles was really T. E. Lawrence all along (report, January 28)! It comes as no surprise to me.

Until I started collecting them, I had never read any Biggles books, so perhaps my reading is not coloured by childhood memories.

To date I have something like 65 books, and can recollect only two occasions on which Biggles even encountered a female of any note, let alone had any romantic entanglement.

Perhaps some of his devoted fans have much more fertile minds than mine, and are able to infer far more than I can from these tales of a grown man who lives with two others and then "adopts" a young (male) waif.

I am far more worried that Biggles was a first world war "ace" and was still flying in the 1960s.

Yours,
ROY LEE-FAULKNER,
113 Mottram Old Road,
Stalybridge, Cheshire.
January 28.

From Sir Peter Masefield

Sir, The appealing theory that the prototype of W. E. Johns's flying hero Biggles was T. E. Lawrence of Arabia is, I am glad to say, incorrect.

Having known W. E. Johns, on and off, for almost 40 years, from 1929 until his death in 1968, I can say that the true Biggles — a very different type from Lawrence — was the late Air Commodore Arthur Wellesley Bigsworth, RAF, DSO and Bar, AFC, originally of the Royal Naval Air Service.

I shall be glad to say a little more about that interesting and gallant trio, Bigsworth, Johns and Biggles ("Captain James Bigglesworth") at the Johns centenary luncheon at the RAF Club on February 6.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASEFIELD,
Rosehill, Doods Way,
Reigate, Surrey.
January 28.

Stonehenge disgrace

From Lord Kennet

Sir, Your account of the new building proposed at Stonehenge (January 20) is too kind.

The plan has been refused permission by Salisbury district council: hence the public enquiry into the appeal made on behalf of English Heritage and the National Trust by a firm of international property advisers.

The £15 million to £20 million needed for the building is not to hand, and English Heritage is already sacking highly qualified staff. A trust set up under a member of the same firm would have to find "investors" in a project where "commercialisation" has, oddly enough, been declared out of the question by English Heritage.

The proposed building, though well intentioned and low, is far too big: it contains an indoor and an outdoor theatre, shops, restaurants, etc, all intended to last 100 years. It would be immediately beside the mysterious and impressive Cursus. There would be car parks for 10,000 vehicle movements a day and a brand new road for them cut through the archaeology.

The present arrangement is a disgrace but another, more lasting, disgrace is not the answer. The main thing about Stonehenge throughout modern history has been its isolation, its otherness. The car parks and whatever "visitor facilities" may be needed should be out of sight, probably at Amesbury two miles away, and access to Stonehenge itself should be by mini shuttle-buses. No buildings.

Your leader (January 16) about the Pyramids (same kind of age as Stonehenge, and at the same kind of risk) got this problem right: "Ruins need protection from man, the builder and redeveloper."

Yours sincerely,
WAYLAND KENNET,
House of Lords.
January 20.

Captain Scott's drugs

From Mr C. S. Barr

Sir, A report from New Zealand (January 21) describes the finding of bottles of cocaine and opium in Captain Scott's hut in the Antarctic. The implication is that there has been no prior knowledge that the expedition carried such drugs.

However, the carriage of drugs by the exploring parties is described in the contemporary accounts of the expedition. Scott's own diary entry for March 11, 1912, when the last four men in the polar party were in desperate straits, tells of his practically ordering Wilson to hand over the means of ending their troubles — 30 tablets of opium apiece. A later diary entry for March 22 or 23, when they were out of fuel and rations and near to death, tells of their having decided on a natural end; a determination to march on and die in their tracks. Scott's diary was published in 1913.

Cherry-Garrard's account from the same expedition of the winter sledging journey to Cape Crozier in *The Worst Journey in the World*, published in 1922, also describes how at one stage, when he thought he was fated to freeze to death, he had thought of taking morphia from the medical case. He did not put this thought into action and survived to tell the tale.

Yours faithfully,
C. S. BARR,
Heathers, Snowdenham Links Road,
Bramley, Surrey.

First-day covers

From Mr A. M. Leverton

Sir, Alan Coren (article, January 20) criticises the Post Office's first-day cover marketing methods. We have been in the stamp business nearly 100 years and agree that the unfortunate way the Post Office persuades so many people to buy these covers is doing a great deal of harm to stamp-collecting.

We are constantly offered collections of them, but there are so many about that the value is virtually nil.

A "health" warning should be printed on all first-day covers indicating they are not worth face value. Mint stamps, of course, can be used for postage.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. LEVERTON
(Director),
Bridger & Kay Ltd,
Westway House,
Brentford, Middlesex.
January 21.

Pupils first

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, Teachers must put their pupils' needs before political or other considerations. That is what they try to do and that is what this union reflects in the concerns it expresses by fax and other means about government policy (leading article, January 18).

John Patten's New Year message promised stability, yet your pages reflect more turmoil to be imposed on schools. Teachers are told what to teach and now how to teach it, regardless of the suitability of a teaching method to a school's pupils, resources or the subject to be taught.

This union has warned the government about the chaotic manner in which the tests in English for 14-year-olds have been developed. They have not been fully piloted; the schools have seen no sample questions; the tests to be used have been announced piecemeal; in addition, the English curriculum is being revised.

Warnings of inadequacy go unheeded by the government. We do not seek confrontation. But we do not believe that children and schools should be judged on the basis of tests commanding no professional support, which have been piloted in 32 schools with 15-year-olds, not 14-year-olds, at too late a stage for defects to be ironed out before being used.

This union tries to be constructive in its responses to government initiatives. It has commissioned studies from outside organisations such as Coopers Lybrand to establish the strengths and weaknesses of proposals and changes. This is hardly the approach of an organisation seeking solely to obstruct, yet on every issue the government prefers dogma to sense.

This union will continue to oppose the incompetents: in that we are in good company — among parents and all who believe schools and particularly children should be protected from government foolishness.

Yours sincerely,
DOUG McAVOY,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1.

Business letters, page 23

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Jobs for women clergy

From the Reverend Roger Ryan

Sir, I was pleased to read about the findings of Leslie Francis's research that women clergy in the Church of England are more masculine and tough-minded than clergymen (report, January 22).

Modern inner-city parish ministry is no place for "wilting violets". Clergy today need not so much prayer and praise as the ability to do physical work and be resilient. At the induction service for a new incumbent the bishop will say: "Receive the cure of souls which is yours and mine." Then you are on your own and there will be little help or encouragement when things become difficult.

In the past four years I have had to clean drains and gutters, dig up drains, empty the church itself of about ten tons of stored books, furniture and junk, repair, clean and paint almost everything, cut grass, prune trees, move furniture, clean toilets, bang in nails, screw in screws, lay bricks, fix tiles, negotiate with plumbers, roofers and builders, maintain and keep all tidy — and just occasionally preach, pray and visit.

There are many churches like this. When they become vacant they are just the place for female clergy and their tough masculine qualities.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER RYAN,
St Mary's, Summerstown, SW17.

Called to account

From Mr Andrew J. Nichols

Sir, Surely Mr Potter, who was troubled by reading two *Times* pages "packed with uncountable numbers of aspiring accountants' exam results" (letters, January 21, 27), cannot have been more depressed than readers who were hoping to see their names in the list as successful candidates but sadly looked in vain.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. NICHOLS,
117 Maiden Lane,
Crayford, Kent.

Those in glass houses?

From Mr Dominic Taylor

Sir, Rather than "a stone's throw" from Parliament (letter, January 22) might I suggest "a pound's plummet"?

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC TAYLOR,
The Meadows, Meadow Lane,
Shipton-under-Wychwood,
Oxfordshire.

Britannia's future

From Mr Claude R. Hart

Sir, The royal yacht *Britannia* is nearing the end of its useful life (report, January 28). Surely now is the time to think about its future — perhaps as a museum exhibit.

Let us not fall into the usual trap of leaving a decision until the last minute, or until it is too late.

Yours sincerely,
CLAUDE R. HART,
6 Egdean Walk, Sevenoaks, Kent.
January 28.

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 28: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1.

Commander Richard Aylard, RN, was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Whitechapel Community Care Project for the care of the homeless mentally ill.

Miss Belinda Harley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 28: The Princess of Wales this morning visited the Field Lane Homeless Families Centre, Gregory House, 48 Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 28: The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Greater Manchester and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness opened the Nursery at Well Green Primary School, Briony Avenue, Hale, Trafford and afterwards visited Canadian Pizza Crust Company (UK) Ltd, Missouri Avenue, Weaste, Salford. Later the Duchess of Gloucester visited "Park House", the new Mental Illness unit and the Elderly Severely Mentally Infirm Unit at North Manchester General Hospital, Crumpsall.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK
January 28: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened the new Adolescent Heart Ward at the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital, Sydney Street, London SW3.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, President of Sight Savers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind), later received Mr David Thompson (Chairman) and Mr Alan Johns (Executive Director).

Birthdays today

Dr R.C. Alston, bibliographer, 60; Mr Malcolm Binns, concert pianist, 57; Mr Leslie Bricusse, composer and lyricist, 62; Major-General Sir George Burns, 82; Mr Peter Byrne, actor, 65; Lord Clyde, 61; Dr Alec Coppen, psychiatrist, 70; the Right Rev Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, Abbot of Downside, 52; Dr Germaine Greer, author, 54; Lord Gregson, 69; Professor F.R. Hartley, vice-chancellor, Cranfield Institute of Technology, 51; Mr Paul Hodder-Williams, publisher, 83; Earl Howe, 42; Mr John Junkin, actor and writer, 63; Mr Sean Kerly, hockey player, 33; Mrs Margaret Laird, Third Church Estates Commissioner, 60; Lord Lane of Horsell, 68; Mr Michael Mavor, headmaster, Rugby School, 46; Mr Andy Roberts, cricketer, 42; Professor Abdus Salam, theoretical physicist, 67; Mr Raman Subba Row, former chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 61; Viscount Tonypandy, 84; Mr Brian Trubshaw, former test pilot, 69.

Appointments

Mr David Hogg to be Deputy *Treasury Solicitor. Mr Philip Ridd* to be Head of the Litigation Service of the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

Earl Peel and Mr Nicholas Hood to be members of the Council of the Prince of Wales.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Gloucester, as Presi*dent of St Bartholomew's Hos*pital, will visit St Bartholomew's Hospital at Homerton at 10.30; and visit the Well Street Surgery, 52B Well Street, E9, at 11.40.

Princess Alexandra will visit the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, at 11.00.

Luncheons

London Society of Chartered Accountants

Alderman Sir Brian Jenkins was *the principal guest and speaker at* the Annual Chairman's Luncheon held yesterday at the Honourable Artillery Company hosted by Mr John Hoare, BSc, FCA, Chairman of the London Society of Chartered Accountants. Other guests included Presidents and Chairmen *of other professional bodies.*

The Park Tower Luncheon Club

The Park Tower Luncheon Club held a luncheon yesterday in Restaurant 101 Knightsbridge at The Sheraton Park Tower Hotel. Mr Derek Picot, General Manager, and *Miss Jacqueline* McCouat were the hosts and the guests were:

The Duchess of Norfolk, Lady Celestria Noel, Ms Diana Rigg, Ms Ewa Lewis, Dr Lillian Glass, Mr Nicholas Snowman, Mr Jeff Banks, Mr Andrew Young, Mr Henry Winter and Mr Matthew Lorenzo.



TONY WHITE

Shooting star: Victoria Wood of Christie's holds Annie Oakley's rifle, which is to be sold in London in March. Made in 1888, the smooth bore Winchester is estimated to make up to £25,000 and was used by Oakley in her feats of marksmanship with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show: She presented it to an English admirer

Memorial services

Mr Joe Mitchenson

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Joe Mitchenson was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Very Rev David Elliott officiated. Dame Judi Dench paid tribute and read from the works of Shakespeare. Mr Timothy West read from the diaries of John Coleman and Miss Mary Miller from the works of Don Marquis. Miss Lorna Dallas sang a selection of Noel Coward's songs and the Players' Theatre Choir gave an Ivor Novello musical tribute. Mr Felix Barker gave an address. Among those present were:

Baroness Birk, Sir Michael Marshall, MP, Sir Peter Saunders, Mr Rupert Rhymes (chairman of the trustees, the Raymond Mander and Joe Mitchenson Theatre Collection) with Mr Richard Mangan, Miss Yolande Bird, Mr Eddie Kulukundis, Mr Iain Mackintosh, Mr Nigel Rideout, Miss Mary Quinnell and other members of staff.

Mr Ned Sherrin, Miss Fenella Fielding, Mr David Moore, Mr John Sutton, Mrs Vera Seaton-Reid, Miss June Averill, Mr Duncan Byers, Miss Betty Conquest, Mrs Audrey Rideout, Mr Allan Davis, Miss Thelma Holt, Mr Malcolm Taylor, Mr Geoffrey Toone, Mr Alan Strachan, Mr John Gale, Miss Gilly Anne Kayes, Mr Len Mills-Smith, Mr Terrence O'Neill.

Miss Margaret Benton and Mr James Fowler (Theatre Museum), Mr Ronald Grant and Mr Martin Humphries (Cinema Museum), Mr Jack Reading (Society for Theatre Research), Mr Patrick Newley (*Stage and Television Today*), Mr George Biggs (Society of West End Theatre), Mr G Laurence Harbottle and Mr John Earl (Theatres Trust), Mr K Sephton (Gallery First Nighters Club), Mr Dennis Gilding (Dennis Artists) and representatives from the Players Theatre and the Garrick.

Brigadier Peter Acland

A Thanksgiving Service for the life *of Peter Acland will be held in* Exeter Cathedral at 3.00pm on Friday, February 19.

Ronald Graeme Macbeth

A Memorial Service for Ronald Graeme Macbeth, MA, DM, BM BCh, FRCS Edin & Eng, Orielensis 1922-25, Director of the Department of Otolaryngology, the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford 1933-68, will be held in the College Chapel on Saturday, February 20, 1993, at 2.30pm.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician, Groningen, 1700; Thomas Paine, radical and writer, Thetford, Norfolk, 1737; Anton Chekhov, playwright, *Tagarov, Russia, 1860; Frederick* Delius, composer, Bradford, 1862; Romain Rolland, novelist, Nobel laureate 1915, Clamecy, France, 1866; Havergal Brian, composer, Dresden, Staffordshire, 1876; W.C. Fields, actor and *comedian, Philadelphia, 1880.*

DEATHS: King George III, Windsor, 1820; Edward Lear, poet and artist, San Remo, Italy, 1888; Alfred Sisley, painter, Moret-sur-Loing, 1899; Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, field-marshal, London, 1928; Henry Louis Mencken, writer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1956; Fritz Kreisler, violinist, New York, 1962; Jimmy Durante, actor, California, 1980.

Desert Island Discs was first broadcast by the BBC, 1942.

Dinners

Reform Club

The Hon Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the guest of honour at the January dinner of the Thackeray Society held last night at the Reform Club. Mr Russell *Burlingham presided* and Mr Richard Brudenell also spoke.

The Institute of Physics Dinner

The President of The Institute of Physics, Mr Clive Foxell, CBE, was host at a dinner last night when the Institute's medals and prizes for 1993 were presented.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Technology at the Department of Trade and Industry, Mr Edward Leigh, was the principal guest. Other guests included:

Mr Robert Foster (Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser, Cabinet Office), Mr N H Nicholls (Clerk to the Privy Council), Professor C W Rees (President, Royal Society of Chemistry), Mr M N T Cottell (President, Institute of Civil Engineers), Professor P J Lawrenson (President, Institution of Electrical Engineers), Dr P T Warren (Executive Secretary, The Royal Society), Mr Don Foster, MP, Honorary Fellows of the Institute Sir Hermann Bondi and Sir Rudolf Peierls and several past-presidents.

Scientific Instrument Makers' Company

Professor Carl den Brinker, Deputy Master of the Scientific Instrument Makers' Company, presented the company's 1992 achievement award to Professor P.A. McKeown on behalf of Cranfield Precision Engineering for the development of the Nanocentre and the SIM award for the best student on the 1992 MSc course in Industrial Measurement Systems at Brunel University to Mr R.A. Badcock at a dinner held last night at their hall. Dr David Townsley Hughes, Master, presided. Mr J.A.M. Cuthbert, Deacon of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow, and Mr *W.J. Goldfinch, Junior Warden,* also spoke.

Middlesex and Surrey Society

The Lord Chancellor and Lady Mackay of Clashfern were the principal guests at a dinner held last night at the Imperial Hotel, London, to mark the 750th meeting of the Middlesex and Surrey Society.

Receptions

Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad

Lord Newall, the President of SPANA, was host at a reception held on January 26 at the Foreign Press Association, London, SW1, to celebrate the society's 70th Anniversary. Among those present were:

The Moroccan Ambassador, the Chairman of SPANA, *the President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons*, the Vice President of the Foreign Press Association, the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, and a senior representative of the Tunisian Tourist Board.

Fulbright Commission

Mr John Patten, Secretary of State for Education, welcomed the guests on behalf of Her Majesty's Government at a reception held last night at Lancaster House in honour of American Fulbright students, scholars and fellows in the United Kingdom.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.C. Beard and Miss K.B. Warde-Aldam

The engagement is announced between Alex, son of Mrs P.A. Beard and the late Mr C.H. Beard, of London, and Kate, daughter of Major and Mrs D.J. Warde-Aldam, of Healey, Northumberland.

Mr L.J.V. Brooke-Little and Miss S.E. Kidney

A marriage will take place on *March 1 next* between Leo John Vincent, son of Mr and Mrs John Brooke-Little, of Heyford House, Lower Heyford, Bicester, and Sonya Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Leroy Kidney.

Mr S.R. Buirski and *Miss V.K. Stewart Jones*

The engagement is announced between Simon Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Buirski, of Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, and Vanessa Kim, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Stewart Jones, of Greenwich, London.

Dr R.N. Byng and Miss M.J. Lansdell

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Colonel and Mrs Arthur Byng, of Pulborough, West Sussex, and Melanie, younger daughter of Mr Frank Lansdell, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Mrs James Collins, of Worthing, West Sussex.

Mr C.J.R. Calderwood and Miss C.L. Howgill

The engagement is announced between Chris, son of Mr and Mrs A.H.R. Calderwood, of Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, and Clare, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs P.A.C. Howgill, of Bovey Tracey, Devon.

Mr D.J. Fraser and Miss C. Archer

The engagement is announced between Donald, elder son of Mr James G. Fraser, Yorkshire, and Madelene S. Fraser, Cornwall, and Catriona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gilbert B. Archer, Peeblesshire.

Mr C.W.Le S. Herring and Miss S.C. Delmar-Morgan

The engagement is announced between Christopher William Le Strange, younger son of Colonel and Mrs P.W.Le S. Herring, of Shipton Bellinger, Hampshire, and Suzannah Clare, elder daughter of Mr J.O.J. Delmar-Morgan, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Mrs J.L. Goman, of Upavon, Wiltshire.

Mr C. Jenkins and Miss D.C. Pearson

The engagement is announced between Christian, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Jenkins, of Thirsk, Yorkshire, and Deborah Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence Colwyn Pearson, of Nantwich, Cheshire.

Mr C.R.H. Lloyd and Miss V.M. Hanslip

The engagement is announced between Christopher, second son of Mr and Mrs A.S. Lloyd, of Effingham, Surrey, and Virginia May, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Hanslip, of Frimley, Surrey.

Mr A.J. McNeile and Miss G. Fitzgerald

The engagement is announced between Adrian Jeffrey, younger son of Mr and Mrs John McNeile, of The Old Vicarage, Fisherton de la Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire, and Gai, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Fitzgerald, of Adelaide, South Australia. The wedding will take place in Australia in the spring.

Mr R.M. Martine and Miss L.F. Hodgson

The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr James Martine, of Rotherby, Leicestershire, and Mrs Audrey Martine, of Aynho, Northamptonshire, and Louise, daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Hodgson, of Yarnton, Oxfordshire.

Mr E.C. Ryall and Miss H.M. Mauriac

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Dr and Mrs Roger Ryall, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Hélène, youngest daughter of M and Mme Bruno Mauriac, of Bordeaux, France.

Mr M.J.K. Smith and Miss S.S. Hislop

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs C.P. Smith, of Knutsford, Cheshire, and Samantha, daughter of Colonel and Mrs P.H. Hislop, of Yalding, Kent.

Marriages

Mr R.S. Edleston *and Mrs M.E. Smartt*

The marriage took place in California on December 30, between Mr Robin Edleston, of Lopen, Somerset, and Mrs Mary Smartt, of Berkeley, California.

Mr J.K. Lumm and Mrs R.G. Harber

The marriage took place in Devon on Thursday, January 28, between Mr Kenneth Lumm and Mrs Rosemary Harber.

Westminster School

The Head Master of Westminster School held a Reception in Ashburnham House on Wednesday, January 27, after the Henry Tizard Memorial Lecture given by Sir Michael Atiyah, OM, PRS, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. The Chairman was Sir Christopher Zeeman, FRS, Principal of Hertford College, Oxford, and among the guests were representatives from a number of schools and other educational and scientific establishments.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TEL: 071 481 4000 FAX: 071 481 9313

The nations will know that I the Lord am keeping Israel sacred to myself, because my sanctuary is in their midst for ever.
Ezekiel 37:28 (REB)

BIRTHS

CLARABUT - On January 23rd, to *Justine (née Martin)* and Philip, a son, Guy Philip Tasman.

CONSTANT - On January 13th, at Queen Charlotte's, to Oria (née McGuinn) and Dennis, we welcome our son, James Patrick, our little bundle of joy.

DICKSON - On January 26th, *to Catriona (née Balderston)* and William, a daughter, a sister for Angus.

FOGERTY - On January 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Patricia and Keith, a beautiful son, Keith Ryan

FORBES - On January 14th, to Fanny and Christophe, a son.

JELLINGS - On 21st January, to Jane (née Bray) and Mathew, a son, Alexander.

LEVENTHORPE - On January 26th 1993, to Felicity and John, a daughter, Amelia.

RYAN - On January 24th, to Julia (née Sharp) and Stephen, a son, Alexander George.

WELFORD - On 26th January 1993, at Leicester Royal Infirmary, to Sue (née Saner) and John, a son, David Gordon.

MARRIAGES

MENCE:CRAVEN - On 20th January 1993 at Chelsea, Anthony John Mence of Chedworth, Glos, to Sophie Craven of Kensington, London.

DEATHS

BROCKWELL - On January 27th 1993, peacefully in hospital after a short illness, Henry Robert, aged 77 years, husband of the late Dorothy. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at 2.40 pm on Friday February 5th at Worthing Crematorium. Enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd., 259 Goring Road, Goring, Worthing tel: (0903) 249913.

de FERRANTI - Dorothy Hettie Campbell, née Wilson. On Tuesday January 26th 1993, died peacefully at Henbury in her 98th year. Widow of Sir Vincent de Ferranti M.C. Requiem mass at the church of St. Thomas, Henbury, at 12 noon on Tuesday February 2nd. No flowers. Donations may be sent to East Cheshire Hospice, Millbank Drive, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 3DR.

DENTON - On January 26th, John at home in Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Formerly of Ketton and Clitheroe. Beloved husband, father and grandad. After a dignified and courageous fight against illness. Funeral to take place at All Saints Church, North Wootton, Kings Lynn on February 2nd at 1.45pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Cancer Research at Christies Hospital Manchester and Macmillan Nurses c/o The John Denton Memorial Fund, Midland Bank, 155 Mile Cross Lane, Norwich

EIMERL - On January 27th, peacefully at his home in Shropshire, T.S. Eimerl D.S.C. V.R.D. M.D. F.R.C.G.P. "Tev", whose two great professional loves of his life, were the Navy and research into General Medical Practice. Is survived by his wife Guyda, his daughter Ann and his son David. Funeral Service Friday 5th February at 3.20 pm at Shrewsbury Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations may be sent to R.N.L.I. and The Salvation Army.

FLEMING - Lt. Cdr. John Fleming M.B.E., RN (Ret'd), died peacefully, aged 73 years on 27th January 1993. He bore his final illness with characteristic courage, and his indomitable spirit remained strong to the end. Beloved father of Rosemary, Angela, Timothy, Louise, Sarah and Simon and much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. The funeral service will be held at St Colman's R.C. Church, Cosham, Hants., at 11 am on Tuesday 2nd February. Flowers may be sent to Barrells Funeral Directors, 246 Fratton Road, Portsmouth, PO1 5PA and donations to Cancer Research Campaign, 10 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL.

HARVEY - Audrey May, peacefully on 26th January, aged 86, at Letheringsett Hall, Holt, Norfolk, formerly of Taverham and Hempnall. *Beloved wife of the late* Donald and darling mother of Angela. Mother-in-law of William and grandmother of Joanna. Funeral Service at St Faith's Crematorium, Norwich, Norfolk, on Tuesday 2nd February at 3 pm.

HASTINGS - On 27th January 1993, Mary Hazel, aged 95. Mother of John, Peter, Cecily, Barbara, Adrian and Susan; Grandmother of Celia, Ben, Cathy, Robert, Anthony, Jonathan, Joanna, Simon, Adrian, Nicholas and Charlotte; Great-Grandmother of Victoria, Mark, Jonathan, Allison, Laura, Peter, Amanda, Miranda, Philip, Conor, Thomas, Imogen and Xanthe. Requiem Mass at Blackfriars, Oxford, at 11.30am Saturday 30th January, followed by burial at East Hendred. All friends welcome at the Church. Family flowers only: donations to Oxfam.

HOLBOROW - On January 27th, peacefully at home after a long illness, Susan, aged 48 years, beloved wife of Jonathan and mother of Rachel and Matthew. *Funeral at noon on* Thursday February 4th at St Peter and St Paul, Bilsington, near Ashford, Kent. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to The Friends of Hamstreet Surgery, c/o The Surgery, Hamstreet, near Ashford, Kent TN26 2NJ.

HUGHES - On January 26th, suddenly at her home, Alice, aged 74 years, of New Street, Worcester, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Meeting for worship for burial to be held at Quaker Meeting House, Sansome Place, Worcester, on Wednesday February 3rd at 12.30 pm, followed by interment. Flowers may be *sent to E.J. Cunnery & Son*, 68/70 Ombersley Road, Worcester.

KETT - Brian David, FRIBA, Architect on January 27th 1993, in Sierre, Switzerland. Dearly loved and loving husband of Augustine, father of Rachelle, Helene and Jeremy and brother of Anthony. Funeral Mass at La Chapelle St Christophe, Crans, Switzerland, on Friday January 29th at 10.30 am. No flowers please, but donations to The Little Sisters of the Poor, 77 Manor Road, London N16 5BL.

KYRIAKIDES - On January 22nd 1993, peacefully Nicolas Christou loving husband of the late Irca, beloved father of Christine, Robert and Yvonne, adored grandfather of Nicolas, Katy, Matthew, Sophie, Alexander and Richard. Funeral service to take place at St Andrews Greek Church, Kentish Town on Tuesday February 2nd at 1 o'clock, followed by interment at New Southgate Cemetery at 3 o'clock. Flowers may be sent to Leverton & Sons, 212 Eversholt Street by 11.30am or to the Church

LOBB - On January 25th, peacefully in hospital after a short illness borne with typical grit and good humour. Eric Lobb, aged 85, of Radlett and of John Lobb, Ltd., St James's Street, London. Much loved father of Alice and Edward. Funeral Service at Christ Church, Radlett, on Wednesday February 3rd at 1 pm. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research and flowers to the funeral directors Nethercotts, Aldenham Road, Radlett, Herts., by 11.30 am on February 3rd.

MURLESS - On Wednesday January 27th 1993, peacefully at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Gwen. Much loved widow of Noel, mother of Julie and grandmother of Noel and Katie Cecil. Private funeral service at St Andrew's Church, Bishopthorpe, York, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Coronary Care Unit, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge c/o Southgate of Newmarket Funeral Directors, 26 Duchess Drive, Newmarket, tel: (0638) 662480.

ORCHARD - On 28th January 1993, suddenly, Peter Francis, greatly loved husband of Helen and devoted father of Rupert, Marianne, Timothy and Josephine and much loved grandfather. Funeral private - family only. Memorial Service in London to be announced later.

RYDER - On January 27th in The Royal London Hospital, following a car accident, Dr. Arthur John Ryder Ph.D. in his 80th year. Husband of the late Krystyna, much loved brother and uncle. Funeral Service at St Mark's Church, Hamilton Terrace, NW8, on Wednesday February 3rd at 11.30 am. Cremation at Golders Green. All friends welcome after the service at the house. Donations in lieu of flowers to The Sue Ryder Foundation c/o James Crook Ltd., 259 Kilburn High Rd., NW6 7JR.

TATHAM - On 27th January, peacefully at home, Pat, beloved wife of John and much loved mother of Nicola and Richard. Private family service at 12 noon Tuesday 2nd February at South London Crematorium, Streatham, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving for all family and friends at 2 pm in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Family flowers only please, but donations may be sent to Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, SM2 5PT.

VAUGHAN - On January 27th 1993, Irene Mary, aged 103 years, much loved wife of the late Captain H.R.H. Vaughan R.N. Rithus ecclesiae munita. Latin Requiem Mass followed by burial at the Church of the Holy Family and St Michael, Kesgrave, on Tuesday February 2nd at 11 am. Donations, if desired, to R.S.P.B. c/o E.B. Button & Sons, 24 St Johns Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. R.I.P.

WADE - On January 26th 1993, suddenly in hospital, Anthony John aged 33. Much loved son of Albert and Patricia of Mottingham and Upper Hardres, Kent. Funeral Service on Friday February 5th at Chislehurst Cemetery. Memorial Service to be held at a later date. Family flowers only to F. Chappell, High Street, Eltham SE9. Donations in lieu to Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup DA14 6LT Ref. Reeves Ward/Tony Wade.

WADE - On Wednesday January 27th 1993, peacefully, at Beauport Nursing Home, Jersey, Reginald John. Funeral Service to be held in Jersey. All enquiries to Pitcher and Le Quesne Ltd., Funeral Directors, 59 Kensington Place, St Helier, Jersey, tel: (0534) 33330.

WARD - On 22nd January, Carol, a treasured member of the Global Team in Tenerife died at the age of 38 years. Carol will be missed by everyone who knew her, colleagues and clients alike. She leaves Damian and Angela who have suffered the enormity of the loss of their mother. Carol's very best friend Mark Attwood will *never forget her*. Carol has been laid to rest on the slopes of Mount Teide, the place she loved the most.

WOODRUFF - On January 27th, peacefully at St Mary's Hospital, Anthony, actor. Well-loved brother, uncle and friend. Cremation on February 8th at 1.45 pm, East Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11. Friends welcome. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the Actors Benevolent Fund, c/o R.P. Sherry Funeral Directors, 25 Bell Street, NW1 6BY.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BAKER-BAKER - A Memorial Service for Brigadier H.C. Baker-Baker, Colonel The Black Watch 1964-69, will be held on Wednesday 17th February in St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Perth, at 11.30 am.

COLVIN - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Daphne Joan Ida Colvin will be held at St Andrew's Church, Kilmeston, Hampshire, on Friday 19th February 1993 at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

HACKETT - Cliff. January 29th 1986, lovingly remembered this day and every day Joanne and Adam.

ROWLANDSON - Sir Stanley Graham. January 29, 1986. Sadly missed and always remembered. Vera, Richard, Elisabeth and Edward.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 0011909 of 1992
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
re: WOODCHESTER TRADE FINANCE LIMITED
- and -
re: THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 13 January 1993 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £8,850,000 to £6,250,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 15 January 1993.
Dated 26 January 1993
LINKLATERS & PAINES
Solicitors for the Company

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Bubbles of Caterham Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD, on the 16 February 1993 at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting (unless attending in person) must lodge a proxy at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD no later than noon on 15 February 1993

A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Gibson Hewitt & Co., 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD between 10 am and 5 pm during the two days next before the meeting.
Dated this 26 day of January 1993
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Veronica Hall, Director.

The Insolvency Act 1986
C. BARRALET (LEYTON) LTD
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN, was appointed Liquidator of the said Company the members and creditors on 26th January 1993.
Dated this 26th day of January 1993.
M.R. Dorrington, Liquidator.

No. 00224 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF HARDY OIL & GAS (UK) LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 12th day of January 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above-named company from £93,000,000 to £73,471,000.

AND NOTICE is further given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 10th day of February 1993.

ANY CREDITOR or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of the Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 28th day of January 1993.
ASHURST MORRIS CRISP
Broadwalk House 5 Appold Street
London EC2A 2HA.
Ref: MJS
Solicitors
for the above-named Company

IN THE MATTER OF Glesbury Limited
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and held on the 26th January 1993, I Joan Yvonne Venvil of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London N19 5UU, was duly appointed Liquidator of the above named company.
Dated this 26th day of January 1993.

BELLHEAT LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the above named company are required on or before 28 February 1993, the last date for proving to prove their debts by sending to the Liquidator particulars in writing of their claim against the company. The Liquidator will proceed with the Final Distribution within the period of 4 months from the last date for proving without regard to any claim not submitted to him before that date.
Date: 25 January 1993.
G J Watts, LIQUIDATOR,
Touche Ross & Co., P O Box 500
Abbey House 74 Mosley Street,
Manchester M60 2AT

DUTY FREE COSMETICS LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens, Manchester, M3 2LE on Thursday 18th February 1993 at 2.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Notice is further given that David A T Wood, FCA of Latham, Crossley & Davis, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens, Manchester, M3 2LE is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors free of charge with such information as they may reasonably require pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a).
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Dated 20th January 1993
D.J HOYLE, DIRECTOR.

PUBLIC NOTICES

SILCOX
ARTHUR JOHN SILCOX
Late of The Meadows, 288 Oldfield Road, Greenford, Middlesex. Died there on 13th October, 1992
(Residuary estate about £30,000).
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to Messrs. Wilson Houlder & Co., Solicitors, of 91 South Road, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 1SH.

SCOTTISH NUCLEAR

DRY STORE : TORNESS

During the course of the Public Inquiry held at Abbey Church, Abbey Road, Dunbar, into an application by Scottish Nuclear Limited to the Secretary of State for Scotland under Section 36 of the Electricity Act, 1989, for consent to construct and operate a dry store for the storage of spent nuclear fuel at Torness, East Lothian, Scottish Nuclear Limited produced an addendum to the Environmental Statement assessing the potential environmental effects of the dry fuel store for onward transmission to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

A copy of this addendum together with the Environmental Statement is available for consultation during normal business hours at the following locations:-

East Lothian District Council Buildings
Haddington East Lothian EH41 3HA

Berwickshire District Council Offices 8 Newtown Street
Duns Berwickshire TD11 3DT

Lothian Regional Council Regional Headquarters
George IV Bridge Edinburgh EH1 1UQ

Dunbar Public Library Castellau
Dunbar EH42 1DA

Haddington Public Library Newtonport
Haddington EH41 3NA

North Berwick Public Library
Old School School Road North Berwick EH39 4JU

Alternatively, a copy of the addendum is available free of charge on written application to:-
Company Secretary
Scottish Nuclear Limited
3 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park
East Kilbride G74 5PR

Any representations in respect of the Environmental Statement together with the addendum should be made in writing to the Secretary of State for Scotland at Room 6/42 New St. Andrew's House, St. James Centre, Edinburgh, EH1 3TA, no later than 26th February 1993.

Scottish Nuclear Limited, Company Number 117121, Registered Office: 3 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, G74 5PR.

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CONTRACTS & TENDERS

Westminster City Council, Local Government Act 1988 - Building Cleaning Services

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1988 applications are invited from suitably experienced companies who wish to be considered by Westminster City Council for inclusion to a select list of tenderers to provide Housing Estate Cleaning Services.

This Contract is to be for a period of four or possibly five years commencing on Monday 22 November 1993 and will include building cleaning, graffiti removal, refuse chute clearing/cleaning and other services. The Housing stock comprises single to multi storey residential accommodation on a number of sites in West and South West of the City.

The Contract documentation will be available for inspection free of charge from 10.00 to 16.00hrs Monday to Friday during the period 15 March 1993 to the 17 May 1993 at the "One Stop Services" offices at City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1, and 313 Harrow Road, London W9. Copies of the Contract Documentation may also be purchased for £150.00 (two sets of documents) although purchase will not indicate approval onto the approved list of tenderers.

All parties wishing to be considered for inclusion on the select list of tenderers for the above mentioned services should submit a written request to: The Contracts Officer, Room 5.21, 83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW, quoting the reference "HEC006".

Companies writing for inclusion on the select list of tenderers for the above Services must include with their initial written application the following information:

1. Company name, registration number, trading address and registered office (if the company applying is a subsidiary company, also give the above information for their parent company).
2. Name and address of the company's bankers (parent and subsidiary Companies).
3. The names, addresses and business types of three referees from whom references may be sought regarding the company's experience and ability to undertake the services. These should be Local Authorities where possible.
4. A statement showing a list of similar work carried out over the last three years including contract date, values and client/contract names.
5. A set of audited accounts for the last three years (and if a subsidiary company submit these as well as consolidated accounts).
6. Any other information that may be considered relevant.

Any further enquiries must be made in writing and directed to the Contracts Officer as indicated above.

G. England, Director of Housing
Westminster City Council,
83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW.

City of Westminster

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

AXEL VON DEM BUSSCHE

Axel von dem Bussche, one of the last surviving members of the group of Wehrmacht officers who made repeated attempts on Hitler's life in 1943-44, died in Bonn on January 26 aged 73. He was born in 1919.



AXEL von dem Bussche was one of that high-minded band of Wehrmacht officers led by Claus von Stauffenberg, which set itself against the Hitler evil and organised the famous, but failed July plot of 1944. But he deserves honour in his own right as the volunteer for quite the most ingenious of the Hitler assassination attempts — one which, had it been successful, would have involved the sacrifice of his own life.

"Operation Overcoat", as it was styled was scheduled for November 1943. The opportunity was presented by Hitler's finicking interest in the mundanest details of military equipment. It was announced that a new uniform greatcoat was to be introduced into the Wehrmacht. Hitler wanted to judge for himself the aesthetic qualities of the new apparel before it was officially adopted. It was arranged that the greatcoat should be exhibited for his inspection at his headquarters at Rastenburg in East Prussia.

An aristocratic young battalion commander in the 9th Infantry Regiment, Freiherr Axel von dem Bussche volunteered to model the new coat before his Führer. In the bulky pockets Bussche was to secrete one, possibly two *Eihandgranaten*, egg-shaped grenades whose four-second time fuses he would trigger as Hitler stood before him. He would then grapple the Führer, clinging to him until the grenades exploded, killing them both.

The plan had simplicity as well as self-sacrificial bravery on its side. At Hitler's normal public appearances his personal bodyguard, the fanatical and lynx-eyed *SS Leibstandarte*, were on watch for any hostile movement in the crowd. Such a suicide plot was one that seemed capable of thwarting even their famed watchfulness.

However, Hitler's legendary sixth sense of impending danger made the ensuing days nerve-wracking ones for Bussche. Time after time the Führer cancelled the demonstration. But at last a day was fixed upon and Bussche made his final preparations.

It was not to be. On the allotted day a sudden Allied air raid threw the arrangements for the military fashion show into total disarray. Worse, bombs wrecked the train which was bringing the display of coats to the inspection, and it was postponed.

There was not to be another chance for Bussche. He had to rejoin his regiment on the eastern front. Shortly after that he was severely wounded and had a leg amputated. He was under constant suspicion from the Nazi hospital staff (he even had to get rid of the bombs, which he still had in his kit). But the long hospitalisation which followed — isolating him from his fellow conspirators — undoubtedly saved his life. The Stauffenberg plot of July 1944 failed disastrously. Stauffenberg and most of the other members of the German resistance, including Von dem Bussche's closest friend, Fritz von der Schulenburg, were all executed.

Bussche was born into an old Saxon family, although his mother was Danish. It was his mother's side which, ironically, gave him the blond, blue-eyed good looks which later enabled him to pass as the "typical" German type beloved of the Führer. It was natural for him to join the army as a career, but, as he was later to recall, it was an army with very little enthusiasm for Nazism. In Bussche's unit, the 9th Infantry Regiment, based at Potsdam, professional soldiering was the talk of the mess and the crudities of Nazi propaganda were held in almost open contempt. When war came, the main aim of the 9th was to acquit themselves as had the generation of 1914-18.

On the first day of the war, one of von dem Bussche's comrades to be killed — a few yards from him — was the brother of today's president of Germany, Richard von Weizsäcker, who was to remain a close friend. The invasion of Poland in 1939 gave him his first glimpses of Nazi vileness as he saw Jews being brutally herded from villages into waiting trains.

However, the following May, with scores to settle against the French, for 21-year-old von dem Bussche, the fast-moving Blitzkrieg seemed like a "jolly picnic", with his foot-sore men wheeling their weapons along through the Ardennes in commandeered prams. For his role in the French campaign he was awarded the *Ritterkreuz* (Knight's Cross) — equivalent of the British VC — which was to give him his special access to the Führer.

In June 1941, his regiment was in the vanguard for the attack on Leningrad, but it was while resting in the Ukraine the following year that he had first-hand experience of what *Die Endlösung* — the "final solution" — really meant. On an unused airfield, his regiment was ordered to take part in a "special operation". With some intuition of what was afoot, the CO refused and a renegade unit of Ukrainians was employed instead. Many years later von dem Bussche recalled "there in the beautiful autumn sunshine was a queue about a mile long of old men, women, children, babies — all naked. Large trucks were driving away with their clothes. It was the Jewish population. They were waiting to lie down in these enormous holes — graves which they had themselves been forced to dig — and be shot by the SS."

Von dem Bussche urged his commanding officer to do something. The other officers were left in a state of shock. It was the moment when he resolved to assassinate Hitler — whatever the cost. He was put in touch with the "underground" opposition to Hitler early in 1943 by Fritz von der Schulenburg. Schulenburg had been deputy president of the police in Berlin and then had a senior post in Breslau and had early experience of the dark side of the Third Reich. He introduced Bussche to von Stauffenberg who elucidated "Operation Overcoat" and asked him if he would undertake it. Bussche unhesitatingly volunteered. In the atmosphere of evil which had overspread the German spirit he felt no sense of heroics. Indeed he always deprecated a later generation's interest in the cloak and dagger nature of the assassination attempt. For him the *raison d'être* of the operation was simply the hideous nature of Hitler's crimes.

After the war, badly handicapped from his wounds (he had also lost a thumb at the crossing of the Meuse in 1940), he married a daughter of an Irish earl, Camilla Stauffenberg, herself widow of the chief conspirator's cousin. With his unblemished credentials he was the natural choice to become one of the leaders of the newly-formed Bundeswehr. But in 1952, and over a matter of principle where he feared that some of the old evils of Prussianism were creeping back, he resigned. It seems that he over-reacted; nevertheless the huge publicity both inside Germany and in the world press undoubtedly helped assure that the democratic reformers won the day at this crucial moment in German history.

He became head of the famous Salem School but had to give that up after a heart attack. For a period he lived in Switzerland working for the World Council of Churches. But he was probably at his happiest in America. It was only in the States, he sometimes used to say, that he felt relieved of the intolerable burden of the European past.

He played a prominent role in the early days of the Königswinter Anglo-German Association. In 1985 he spent a year, with Camilla(who predeceased him), at St Antony's College, Oxford, endeavouring to write his memoirs. But it was marred by a total blockage; the bad dreams of the past would not allow him to get it all down on paper.

Nobody who met this 6ft 5ins giant, with a single crutch and piercing blue eyes, ever forgot his quite extraordinary presence. As well as being a man of high seriousness, he was also a great humanist and possessed of a unique sense of humour.

In his last years he finally moved back to Germany to Bonn. To his many friends across the world he stood for more than just the conscience of Germany.

LORD POOLE

Lord Poole, CBE, PC, a former chairman of the Conservative party and a prominent figure in the City of London, died yesterday aged 81. He was born on August 11, 1911.



WHILE he never appeared to have any direct political ambitions for himself, Lord Poole sat as a Conservative MP in the 1945-50 Parliament and, after he had left Westminster to devote himself more closely to his City interests, he came to play an important part in the organisation of the Conservative party. In 1952, at the age of 40, he was appointed by Churchill to be joint honorary treasurer, and held this office for three years. Then, in 1955, Anthony Eden appointed him chairman of the party in succession to Lord Woolton.

Poole was reserved and diffident in manner, but this masked an acute mind with an instinctive grip of essentials. In addition to an inherited flair for finance, he had a gift for planning and organisation — nurtured in the tough school of staff work during the war under Montgomery. There was also an incisive quality about his leadership.

After his two years as chairman of the party, Macmillan, who was prime minister appointed Lord Hailsham as chairman, but Poole remained deputy chairman. The effective development of political advertising in this period by the Conservative party was largely his doing. Poole continued in this office until the general election of 1959, which saw the Conservatives returned to power for the third time consecutively — an event unprecedented for more than a century.

In the meantime, in 1958, Poole had been created a peer. After the 1959 election, he resigned the post of deputy chairman so that he could give more attention to his City interests but he was brought back again by Macmillan in October, 1963, to be joint chairman (with Iain Macleod) for six months.

Oliver Brian Sanderson Poole was the son of Donald Poole, a member of Lloyd's. He went from Eton to Christ Church, Oxford, and afterwards served for nine months in the Life Guards. He later joined the family business in the City, where he was soon an underwriting member of Lloyd's.

On the outbreak of the second world war he was with the Cavalry Division. He served with the 8th Army in the North African campaign, on Montgomery's staff, and later helped to plan the Sicily landings. Poole afterwards served as a staff officer in the 21st Army Group and took part in the D-day landings and the fighting in North-West Europe. He was three times mentioned in dispatches and, by the time the war ended, was a full colonel, at the age of 34.

At the 1945 general election he was elected Conservative MP for Oswestry. He took a hand in writing *The Right Road For Britain*, the Conservative pamphlet which became the basis of the party's 1950 election manifesto but he found political life less compelling than the City, and did not seek re-election. In 1959, he did, however, become political head of the Conservative Political Centre for a time, in succession to R. A. Butler. It was about this time that Poole became associated with Lord Cowdray in the Pearson complex of companies. But although deeply absorbed in business affairs he was still anxious to assist the Conservative Party and in 1952 became joint treasurer and, three years later, party chairman.

During the intervening period, when he was serving as deputy chairman Poole became involved, with others, in the judicial tribunal enquiring into whether news of an impending rise in the bank rate had been "leaked in advance" but he was comprehensively cleared of any wrongdoing, emerging with his integrity unimpaired.

In 1963, he was made a privy counsellor. A little earlier in the same year, Poole returned to the Conservative Central Office, for a short spell, at Macmillan's request, to again be joint chairman of the party. He gave strenuous support to the prime minister through the turbulent period of the Profumo affair and made some outspoken public speeches on that subject at meetings of party officials and workers.

Poole was also active behind the scenes in the party soundings which were part of the process of consultation which led to the succession of Lord Home as party leader and prime minister on Macmillan's resignation.

In October 1963, he relinquished the office of joint chairman of the party but continued for another year as a vice-chairman.

He then devoted himself to his financial and industrial interests, centred on the Cowdray empire, though he remained a significant figure politically. When the Wilson government dismissed the former governor and director of the Bank of Rhodesia, following Ian Smith's unilateral declaration of independence in 1965 Poole was one of the new directors appointed.

He was chairman of Lazards from 1965 to 1973. After giving up day-to-day merchant banking, he remained chief executive of S. Pearson and chairman of the Whitehall Trust, Lord Cowdray's master holding company.

Lord Poole was first married, in 1933, to Betty Margaret Gilkison, by whom he had one son and three daughters. The marriage was dissolved in 1951. In 1952 he married Mrs Daphne Heber Percy. This marriage was dissolved in 1965. His third marriage, in 1966, was to Barbara Ann Taylor. He is survived by his son David, who succeeds to the barony, his wife and his three daughters.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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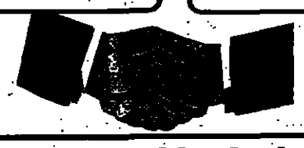
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New Ballet for Old

La Fille Mal Gardée

Widow Simone ..... STANLEY HOLDEN
Lise ..... NADIA NERINA
Colas ..... DAVID BLAIR
Thomas ..... LESLIE EDWARDS
Alain ..... ALEXANDER GRANT
Choreographer: FREDERICK ASHTON
Décor: OSBERT LANCASTER
Conductor: HUGO RIGNOLD

La Fille Mal Gardée, we are told, is the oldest (save one) ballet in the repertory. It was devised by Jean Dauberval in 1789 under the inspiration of Noverre's dramatic ideals. It was danced in St. Petersburg by Zucci and by Pavlova. It has a score, not the original, by Herold with a few injections of Rossini. In short, an important ballet, a historical document, of which a revival will be, if not edifying, at any rate instructive. But Mr. Frederick Ashton's recreation of it is such that its forefathers would hardly recognize it, though the title does of course suggest a situation from French comic opera which might prove amusing.

It is more: it is hilarious. For Mr. Ashton has infused his choreography with wit. Mr. John Lanchbery has touched up the scoring with quips and Mr. Osbert Lancaster has filed his enchanting landscapes with shrewdly observed felicities — who, for instance, is the goddess on the drop-scene looking like Danilova with averted but knowing eyes?

The question of the moment seems to be wit and humour in the arts — in painting, in music, and now in dancing. Mr. Ashton has informed with delicately grotesque touches all his dances, however formal. He begins with a farmyard cock and four hens: his climax in this vein is a Lancashire clog dance put *en pointes*. This, incidentally, is not the only bit of anglicizing in the choreography, which owes nothing, nor professes to owe anything, to Dauberval, Petipa or anyone else but is a new creation: there are bits of rapper dance and of country dance in the agricultural scene. Yet Mr. Ashton has never done anything more original or more brilliant. The ballet, like a comic opera, is in two acts with movements of formal dancing and touches of sentiment. These two elements are tied together with ribbon. Lise ties a ribbon to Colas's hay-fork. The ribbon grows to yards, a cascade like a sword-dance lock is made with it, lovers are wound up in it like clock springs, may-poles are ravelled and unravelled. From a motif of pink ribbon, Mr. Ashton evolves a Beethovenian symphonic development in physical movement.

All these gifts are delivered to Miss Nadia Nerina and Mr. David Blair, who re-pay them with interest. Miss Nerina is light as a feather, Mr. Blair is strong at lifts, so that one feat last night at the first performance was a single-handed portage not seen at Covent Garden since Ulanova's partner bore her out of Juliet's tomb with one hand. The technical feats, however, were executed so easily that they could almost pass unnoticed beneath the billowing waves of the comedy. The widow's is a *travesti* part and Mr. Stanley Holden played it with subtleties. His was the clog dance and his the execution of the funnest touches of Ashton's imagination.

ON THIS DAY

January 29 1960

One of the most delightful of Frederick Ashton's ballets, La fille mal gardée *offered excellent opportunities to David Blair and Nadia Nerina and saw a hilarious performance by Stanley Holden.*

THE TIMES TODAY FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1993

NEWS

Prime minister sues for libel

■ John Major became only the fourth prime minister this century to sue for libel when he issued writs against two magazines over rumours about his private life. The caterer whose name was linked with Mr Major is also acting.

Mr Major instructed his solicitors to act after the *New Statesman and Society* published an article repeating rumours about him and 41-year-old Clare Latimer. They are also suing a satirical publication, *Scallywag* ..... **Pages 1, 2**

US considers Balkan action

■ The Clinton administration is giving utmost priority to a sweeping review of Washington's options in the Balkan conflict, including large-scale use of American military power. White House sources said that nothing had been ruled out, even sending ground troops ..... **Pages 1, 10**

Tank deal

John Major flew into Riyadh for talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia after announcing that Oman has decided to buy Britain's Challenger 2 as its new battle tank. The prime minister also continued his efforts to shore up the coalition against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq ..... **Page 1**

School problems

Truancy, bullying and boredom with lessons are widespread, according to a study of children's attitudes to school. Most secondary pupils were keen to learn and enjoyed school, but a significant minority was hostile and felt alienated, according to the report by the National Foundation for Educational Research **Page 2**

Drug charge

Two crates of beer bottles filled with seven litres of the drug ecstasy in liquid form were found in the flat of a Dutch chemist who helped to manufacture the biggest haul of the substance ever seized in Britain, the Old Bailey was told ..... **Page 3**

Horse suspects

Police hunting the people responsible for a spate of sexual assaults on horses, which has left one dead and others badly mutilated, issued a photo-fit picture of one suspect and a description of another ..... **Page 5**

Cancer and diet

British doctors will today begin recruiting 50,000 volunteers for the world's largest investigation into links between diet and cancer. The £9 million Europe-wide study, due to last ten years, will start in Scotland ..... **Page 6**

Britain's role

Despite a present defence budget of £24 billion and nearly 285,000 men and women serving with the armed forces, there is great unease among military planners and officers about casting Britain in the role of world policeman ..... **Page 7**

Croatia clashes

Fighting in Croatia spread as Serbs and Croats traded artillery fire at the strategic Peruca dam, once a principal source of electricity. Conflicting reports suggested that the dam had been damaged but there was no information to confirm how serious this was ..... **Page 10**

Israel braced

Israel braced itself for renewed confrontation with the United Nations after the country's supreme court unanimously upheld the government's deportation of hundreds of Palestinians to Lebanon ..... **Page 11**

Clinton compromise

President Clinton was hoping to announce an immediate suspension of the ban on homosexuals in the military last night after offering congressional leaders a compromise designed to avert an open revolt by Capitol Hill's Democrats in the first days of his presidency ..... **Page 11**

Round the world and down to earth

■ Robin Knox-Johnston discovered that when life attempts to imitate art, certain practicalities intrude on the narrative. Phileas Fogg, when he was attempting a round the world trip, did not have to contend with forgetting his spectacles. Nor, when Fogg got started, was he confronted with a runaway boat containing representatives of the press ..... **Page 1**



MICHAEL POWELL

Imitation art: Rembrandt's "Girl at a Window" (centre) with copies (from left) Tom Keeting, a Victorian copy, Paul Palley and a photographic image, which will be in a forthcoming exhibition at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, south London

BUSINESS

Trade shock: The latest trade figures were much worse than expected. Britain's visible trade gap widened from £1.4 billion in November to £1.74 billion in December, the highest monthly deficit since July 1990 ..... **Page 19**

Shopping trip: Asda, the supermarket group that was in deep trouble 15 months ago, is to raise nearly £350 million from its shareholders on the strength of higher profits to help it fight back against its three bigger rivals ..... **Page 19**

Markets: Sterling continued its slide since Tuesday's interest rate cut, edging down against the mark to DM2.3929, its lowest closing level since October 5. Share prices paused for breath and the FT-SE 100 share index lost 15.6 points to 2816.9 ..... **Page 22**

SPORT

Cricket: Graham Gooch, the England captain, shook off the virus that had threatened his 100th Test match appearance and was expected to lead the side in the first Test against India at Calcutta today but Michael Atherton was laid low by the same virus ..... **Pages 34, 36**

American football: Michael Jackson has been signed in an attempt to woo the disenchanted masses who have been switching off from the Super Bowl after a succession of one-sided games ..... **Page 34**

Rugby league: A muddy pitch and spartan dressing-room can help unfancied Dewsbury overcome mighty Wigan ..... **Page 32**

MODERN TIMES

Shrink and shrunken: Four hundred pages of earnest Socratic dialogue between John Cleese and his psychotherapist make *Life and How to Survive It* an uncategorisable book but it will sell like its predecessor. Valerie Grove **Page 12**

Betting certainty: In a casino in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, during the last Commonwealth Conference, a party of lobby correspondents were blowing their expenses at the tables. In the midst of them, piling his chips on to the table, was Gus O'Donnell, the prime minister's press secretary. O'Donnell, through judgment not luck, steadily took the casino to the cleaners. Nicholas Wapshott ..... **Page 13**

MOTORING

Driving a bargain: The stressful practice of haggling with an Arthur Daley over the price of a second-hand car may soon be coming to an end ..... **Page 31**

Sitting tight: Back-seat passengers and children are the targets of a government campaign on seat belts ..... **Page 31**

Pets on wheels: The cuddly car look that is becoming a feature of mini-sized vehicles, has been adopted by Vauxhall ..... **Page 31**

TECH

Slowing down: Ten years after the first personal computers, IBM is beset by rivals and looks to be slow on its feet ..... **Page 26**

ARTS

Border patrol: The first British exhibition, in Manchester, of Chicano art shows how Americans of Mexican descent are creating a vigorous art movement ..... **Page 27**

Just add music: The Canadian theatre director, Robert Lepage, has made an operatic debut in Toronto with a double-bill of Bartók and Schoenberg ..... **Page 27**

Soupçon of sauce: Lenny Henry's on-the-edge performance in the title role is just one of several fine ingredients in *Chefl*, the new BBC 1 comedy series ..... **Page 28**

Heart felt: Louis Malle talks about how he made *Damage* against the orders of doctors who said he needed an operation ..... **Page 29**

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



John Smith delivered a scathing attack on the government's conduct, accusing ministers of arrogance, insensitivity and partiality **Page 8**



After leaflets appeared in Rangoon calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's rulers arrested opposition supporters **Page 9**



President Yeltsin brought about a rapprochement between Moscow and Delhi by claiming an end to a festering debt dispute **Page 9**



Monica Seles and Steffi Graf will meet in the final of the Australian Open tennis tournament which is being held in Melbourne tomorrow **Page 32**

ARENA

Arena: A tribute to Dizzy Gillespie, the trumpeting pioneer of bebob (BBC2, 9.30) ..... **Page 35**

COMMENT

Hurd's troubled world

Mr Hurd's appeal for concerted action, in "an effort comparable to those of 1815, 1919 and the years after 1945 ... to avert a continuing slide into disorder" across the world gives no quarter to those who would have Britain's interests narrowly reinterpreted. He has set out an admirably argued case for collective security. He has only to bridge the gap between principle and practice in Bosnia ..... **Page 15**

Mr Smith's standards

John Smith's broadside on the ethical standards of this government strikes a chord. The question is whether this administration is indeed worse than any other, or whether nostalgia simply bathes the Attlee, Macmillan or Wilson eras in a misleadingly golden glow ..... **Page 15**

BERNARD LEVIN

Did you know that [the Masons] are plotting to take over the world, starting next Wednesday? Oh, yes, it's true: a man I met in a pub had heard it from his neighbour, who had been told it by a woman he sat next to on a bus, and she had found out about it from her postman, who knew because he had met a man in a filling-station ..... **Page 14**

JANET DALEY

Someone in high office ought to pause before letting fly with another writ and ask whether the obsession with sexual scandal in the British press and among its readers is not a direct result of the patronising controls which are placed on information which matters more ..... **Page 14**

CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

President Clinton wants neither to vote for sanctions against Israel nor to apply the veto. He should be able by the use of procedural devices, by deferring the vote, and by twisting the arms of both Israel and Security Council members, to avoid doing either ..... **Page 14**

LETTERS

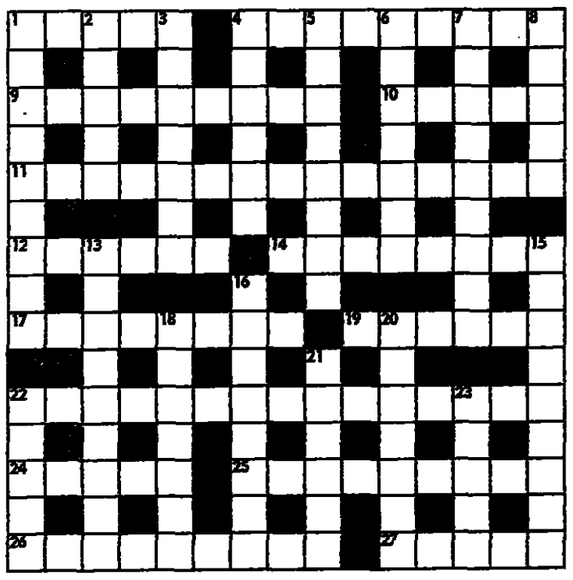
Conflicting theories on the model for Biggles ..... **Page 15**

QUOTE

On-the-job training is a messy process and when you're President everyone gets to watch.

—The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,140



ACROSS

1 Did some work at last, back in *Greek island* (5).
4 No reply comes to this player's address (9).
9 A relative of Lear, connected in obscure way (9).
10 Skill in communicating nothing suggestive (5).
11 After opening word, lines laid out in Ruskin's work (6,3,6).
12 Not able to swallow slice of cake, or ingest (6).
14 Penchant for the ultimate performance? (4-4).
17 Worthless piece making music critic recoil initially (8).
19 *Chips served at one — also fish,* possibly (6).
22 Hogarth's work not offered to Daisy (8,1,2,4).
24 Explosion in First World War magazine (5).
25 Create destruction, as museum lies ruined (9).
26 Long Rhine trip for Wagner's hero (9).
27 Heavyweight gets verdict, in the end, on points (5).

DOWN

1 Some of the fowl put up by beater (9).
2 Finish off insect in this place (5).
3 Get excited and form partnership headed by son (5,2).
4 Contemptuous form of address upset boatman (6).
5 Stores records (4,4).
6 Oriental national loses head and gets confused (7).
7 Bellringer for a particular Sunday (9).
8 They come to ends in play, so they go upwards (2-3).
13 Insect, bird and fish (9).
15 Like an excellent opportunity to watch a duck (9).
16 Effect of celebrating in German city round midnight (8).
18 This market town might be found in trip to North (7).
20 Disturbing calm with antics? Not half! (7).
21 Gun easy to hear as a rule (6).
22 Girl married unfortunate shepherd (5).
23 Bulb lit up repeatedly around one (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,139

S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R		P	E	P	Y	S
U		Y		U		A		E		L		O		P
P	O	L	E	C	A	T		G	A	I	L	L	E	R
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S		S		U		C		E		G		U		E
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Concise Crossword, page 36

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WEATHER

Occasional early rain over Scotland and Northern Ireland will give way to brighter, drier weather. Northwestern parts of England and parts of Wales will brighten, but most areas will be rather cloudy, with rain or drizzle moving eastwards. The rain will be confined mainly to the extreme South East by evening. It will be mild, especially in the South. Outlook: changeable. Generally mild, but becoming windy in the far North.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.04	4	39	rain
Anglesey	-	0.09	9	48	rain
Belfast	-	0.10	9	48	rain
Birmingham	-	0.11	9	48	rain
Bognor Regis	-	0.15	10	50	rain
Bournemouth	-	0.05	11	52	drizzle
Bristol	-	0.07	10	50	rain
Buxton	-	0.21	8	46	rain
Cardiff	-	0.09	9	48	rain
Clacton	0.4	0.16	6	43	drizzle
Cromer	0.5	0.02	7	45	cloudy
Douglas	-	0.22	8	46	rain
Edinburgh	-	0.02	3	37	rain
Eskdalemuir	-	0.05	1	34	sleet
Exmouth	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Falmouth	1.4	-	12	54	cloudy
Folkestone	-	0.27	7	45	rain
Glasgow	-	0.09	3	37	rain
Hastings	-	0.17	7	45	drizzle
Hunstanton	-	0.07	7	45	rain
Jersey	-	-	11	52	dull
Kinloss	-	0.08	5	41	rain
Leeds	-	0.06	5	41	rain
Lerwick	-	0.01	0	32	cloudy
Littlehampton	-	0.13	10	50	drizzle
Liverpool	-	0.14	8	46	rain
London	-	0.09	9	48	rain
Lowestoft	0.4	0.08	6	43	cloudy
Manchester	-	0.12	7	45	rain
Margate	X	0.04	7	45	rain
Minehead	-	0.36	11	52	rain
Morecambe	-	0.12	5	41	rain
Newcastle	-	0.02	5	41	rain
Newquay	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Nottingham	-	0.05	6	43	rain
Penzance	2.0	-	12	54	bright
Plymouth	0.6	0.01	11	52	cloudy
Poole	-	0.02	11	52	dull
Prestwick	-	0.09	7	45	rain
Saunton Snd	-	0.13	9	48	cloudy
Scarborough	-	0.01	5	41	rain
Scilly Isles	2.3	-	11	52	sunny
Shanklin	-	0.23	10	50	rain
Skegness	X	0.26	7	45	dull
Southsea	-	0.17	10	50	rain
Stornoway	-	0.14	7	45	rain
Swanage	-	0.01	11	52	drizzle
Teignmouth	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Tenby	-	0.23	11	52	cloudy
Tiree	-	0.41	9	48	rain
Torquay	0.5	-	13	55	cloudy
Weymouth	0.1	0.02	11	52	rain
Wick	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Worthing	-	0.10	9	48	drizzle

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.315	2.115
Austria Sch	17.90	16.40
Belgium Fr	52.40	48.00
Canada $	2.002	1.872
Denmark Kr	9.85	9.05
Finland Mkk	8.93	8.13
France Fr	8.60	7.90
Germany Dm	2.535	2.335
Greece Dr	341.00	316.00
Hong Kong $	12.39	11.33
Ireland Pt	0.96	0.88
Italy Lira	2345.00	2160.00
Japan Yen	205.00	186.00
Netherlands Gld	2.855	2.625
Norway Kr	10.78	9.98
Portugal Esc	228.50	210.50
South Africa Rd	5.40	4.70
Spain Pta	177.00	164.00
Sweden Kr	11.41	10.67
Switzerland Fr	2.325	2.145
Turkey Lira	14025.00	13025.0
USA $	1.605	1.475

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; lg=log; s=sun, sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	f	Madrid	7	45	f
Alicante	16	61	f	Majorca	13	55	s
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Malaga	16	61	s
Algiers	17	63	s	Malta	13	55	f
Assis'dm	8	46	c	Melb'rne	20	68	c
Athens	14	57	s	Mexico C*	5	41	s
Bahrain	17	63	s	Miami*	15	59	c
Bangkok	25	77	s	Milan	5	41	f
Barbados*	27	81	f	Montreal*	-3	27	c
Barcelna	11	52	s	Moscow	-9	18	f
Beirut	15	59	r	Munich	1	34	sn
Belgrade	2	36	c	Nairobi	13	55	f
Berlin	1	34	f	N Delhi	21	70	s
Bermuda*	22	72	f	N York*	1	34	f
Biarritz	12	54	s	Nice	11	52	c
Borde'x	9	48	c	Oslo	-4	25	s
Brussels	9	48	c	Paris	9	48	r
Budapst	2	36	f	Peking	4	39	s
B Aires*	32	90	f	Perth	34	93	s
Cairo	20	68	f	Prague	-1	30	f
Cape Tn	28	79	s	Reykjavik	1	34	f
Chicago*	2	36	s	Rhodes	13	55	s
Chr'church	17	63	f	Rio de J	32	90	s
Cologne	3	37	r	Riyadh	23	73	s
C'penhgn	3	37	s	Rome	14	57	f
Corfu	12	54	s	Salzburg	-1	30	sn
Dublin	11	52	d	S Frisco*	9	48	s
Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Santiago*	17	63	s
Faro	16	61	s	Seoul	3	37	s
Florence	12	54	s	Sing'por	29	84	f
Frankfurt	3	37	d	St'kholm	-3	27	c
Funchal	17	63	c	Strasb'rg	6	43	c
Geneva	6	43	c	Sydney	30	86	s
Gibraltar	16	61	s	Tangier	16	61	s
Helsinki	-12	10	s	Tel Aviv	17	63	s
Hong K	15	59	s	Tenerife	17	63	s
Innsbruck	1	34	r	Tokyo	7	45	s
Istanbul	6	43	f	Toronto*	-1	30	f
Jeddah	30	86	s	Tunis	16	61	c
L Palmas	18	64	s	Valencia	15	59	s
Le Touq't	9	48	c	Vanc'ver*	7	45	r
Lisbon	11	52	c	Venice	7	45	f
Locarno	7	45	s	Vienna	2	36	sn
London	11	52	c	Warsaw	-1	30	c
L Angels*	12	54	s	Wash'ton*	-3	27	s
Luxembg	6	43	c	Wel'ton	15	59	c
Luxor	23	73	s	Zurich	6	43	c

* denotes figures are latest available

MANCHESTER

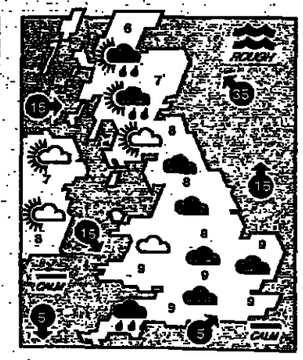
Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.02in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.4hr

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 8C (43F); min 6pm to 6am, 0C (32F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.14in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

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OUTLOOK

London 4.45 pm to 7.44 am
Bristol 4.55 pm to 7.53 am
Edinburgh 4.40 pm to 8.11 am
Manchester 4.46 pm to 7.58 am
Penzance 5.11 pm to 7.59 am

Sun rises: 7.44 am
Sun sets: 4.45 pm
Moon rises: 9.36 am
Moon sets: 12.25 am
First quarter tomorrow

YESTERDAY

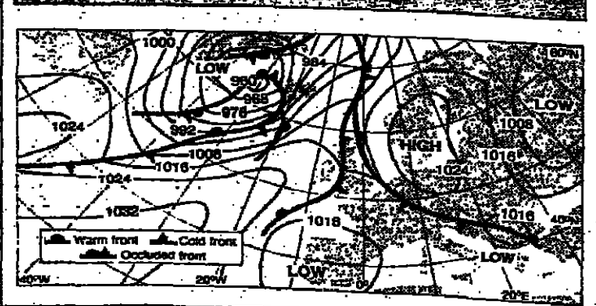
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	10	50	c	Guernsey	9	48	s
B'mogham	9	48	c	Inverness	5	41	c
Blackpool	9	48	c	Jersey	9	48	f
Bristol	10	50	d	London	11	52	c
Cardiff	10	50	c	M'nchster	10	50	c
Edinburgh	4	39	f	Newcastle	6	43	r
Glasgow	3	37	c	P'maway	8	46	fg

SPORT

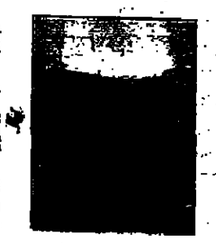
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.48	6.8	5.16	6.7	Liverpool	2.02	8.5	2.19	8.7
Aberdeen	4.26	3.8	4.21	4.0	Lowestoft	12.07	2.4	12.56	2.1
Avonmouth	10.14	12.1	10.26	11.7	Margate	2.50	4.5	3.18	4.3
Belfast	1.58	3.2	2.11	3.4	Milford Haven	9.17	6.4	9.31	6.1
Cardiff	9.58	11.2	10 11	10.9	Newquay	5.10	6.4	8.25	6.1
Devonport	8.40	5.3	9.00	4.8	Oban	8.42	3.7	8.44	3.5
Dover	1.48	6.3	2.04	6.0	Penzance	7.46	5.2	8.07	4.8
Falmouth	8.10	4.9	8.30	4.6	Portland	9.32	1.8	9.46	1.6
Glasgow	3.52	4.5	4.03	4.6	Portsmouth	2.13	4.8	2.20	4.3
Harwich	2.37	3.8	3.03	3.7	Shoreham	1.59	5.8	2.12	5.5
Holyhead	1.13	5.0	1.26	5.2	Southampton	1.49	4.2	1.58	4.1
Hull	9.24	6.8	9.32	7.1	Swansea	9.19	8.5	9.35	8.2
Ilfracombe	8.57	8.4	9.06	8.1	Tees	8.50	4.7	6.56	4.9
King's Lynn	9.34	5.8	9.34	6.1	Wilton-on-Nze	2.32	4.0	2.58	3.9
Leith	5.49	4.9	5.44	5.0					

EUROPEAN WEATHER



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هكذا من الأصل



BUSINESS 19-25

US upsets the world with steel tariffs



ARTS 27-29

Louis Malle on the film that almost cost his life



SPORT 32-36

Gooch brings up his century of Test matches

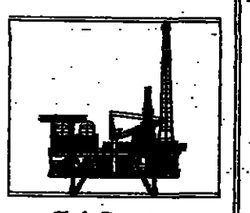
INFOTECH ON FRIDAY Page 26

THE TIMES 2

FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

RESIGNED



Chris Greentree resigned as chief executive of Lasmo, raising fears that the oil company might cut its dividend
Page 21

THREATENED

BT's proposed sale of its stake in McCaw to AT&T is under threat after three American companies lodged formal objections
Page 21

DEPRESSED

MFI

MFI reported lower interim profits and gave warning that sales disappointed in the post-Christmas trading period
Page 20

THE POUND

US $	1.5100 (-0.0045)
German mark	2.3929 (-0.0023)
Exchange index	78.5 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	2816.9 (-15.6)
Dow Jones	3299.22 (+7.83)*
Nikkei Avg.	17063.41 (+553.73)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	6%
3-month interbank	6⅝-6⅝%
US Federal Funds	2⅞-3%*
3-month Treas Bills	2.89-2.88%*
Long Bond	7.20%*

CURRENCIES

New York:		London:	
£:$	1.5165*	£:$	1.5115
$:DM	1.5859*	£:DM	2.3972
$:SWfr.	1.4622*	£:SWfr.	2.2038
$:Ffr	5.3700*	£:Ffr	8.1205
$:Yen	124.18*	£:Yen	187.81
£:SDR	1.0947	£:ECU	1.2275

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 329.70 ... PM 329.95
Close ... 329.65-330.15
New York:
Comex ... 329.65-330.15*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI ... 139.2 December (2.6%)
* Denotes midday trading price

Britain's trade gap widens to £1.74bn

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

■ **Record imports in December widened the trade gap, fuelling concern about structural problems in the economy that is likely to depress the pound**

BRITAIN'S trade gap widened substantially in 1992, despite the fact that the country was in deep recession, and industry and consumers on the defensive. The Central Statistical Office said there was little sign that exports had been boosted by sterling's devaluation and imports remained at record levels.

On current account, which includes invisible exports such as tourism, shipping and finance, last year's shortfall was £11.82 billion, close to the government's Autumn Statement forecast and up from a 1991 deficit of £6.32 billion. In December alone, the current account shortfall was £1.54 billion, the largest monthly gap since June, 1990. Britain's deficit on visible trade was £1.74 billion in December, the largest since July 1990. For the whole year, it was £13.77 billion, compared with £10.29 billion in 1991.

Sterling held up relatively well in the face of these figures, as the markets continued to focus on the implications of Tuesday's base rate cut. The pound closed at DM2.3929, little changed from Wednesday's closing DM2.3952. The battle to save the Irish punt from devaluation continued; intervention by European central banks had little effect.

Britain's trade position is expected to worsen considerably in the course of this year. The Government itself forecasts a current account deficit of £15 billion and some private forecasters expect a gap of £20 billion. Imports are likely to pick up further from current record levels, in both volume and value terms, as further effects of sterling's fall feed through into prices. Exports fell in December — after two strong months in October and November — and could, despite the competitive boost since September's departure from the exchange-rate mechanism, still make heavy weather of it as European economies slow down. About 60 per cent of Britain's exports go to western Europe.

Gerard Lyons, of DKB International, said: "Clearly, the deterioration in the trade position was not because the economy was recovering but because there are deep underlying structural problems in the British economy."

Yesterday's figures were probably the last complete set until July, as the CSO moves to a new system of data collection in connection with the single European market.

Tempus ... page 23

The CSO will continue to publish figures for Britain's trade outside the Community but that is less than half of the total.

The CSO confirmed yesterday that it would not show the Treasury any of the partial data it collects between now and June or July, giving policymakers no evidence on the bulk of Britain's trade performance. Britain's trade deficit with the European Community rose to £609 million in December, from £268 billion in October.

Excluding erratic items and oil, export volumes were up by 5.5 per cent in three months to December, compared with the same period a year previously, while import volumes rose by 7.5 per cent. The value of imports set records in December, in the fourth quarter and in the year as a whole, despite the depth of the recession. Sterling's devaluation is reflected in a 9 per cent jump in the value of imports in the three months to December, compared with the three months to September. Particularly notable was a 21 per cent rise in consumer import volumes and a 15 per cent increase in the import volumes of intermediate goods and capital goods.

Nigel Richardson, of Yamaichi International, said: "These figures indicate that there has been a pick-up in demand both among consumers and companies in the last year, which makes me doubt whether the latest cut in base rates was necessary."

Recovery is clearly under way in America; fourth-quarter growth in gross domestic product was running at an annualised 3.8 per cent, the fastest quarterly performance for four years. There was evidence of strong consumer spending, investment and new home building. Against these positive signs, there was further evidence of weakness in the jobs market. The dollar rallied from $1.5755, the lowest point of the day, to $1.5850 in late trading.

Elsewhere in the currency markets, there was a surge in pressure within the exchange-rate mechanism, with the Irish punt looking increasingly embattled.

Despite central bank intervention and overnight interest rates of 100 per cent, the punt fell below its floors against the Belgian franc and the Dutch guilder.

MARC ASPLAND



Air of expectancy: Jill Banks modelling the new British Airways uniform yesterday at London's Canary Wharf, flanked by school-children from Richmond, Surrey. BA is to spend £14 million on re-clothing its 20,000 air and ground staff. The uniform, the airline's 50th, is designed by Paul Costelloe, who beat 20 competitors to produce something capable of looking good "on a damp January morning in London or in a hot afternoon in Mauritius". From a distance, the cabin staff appear to be clothed in a shade of mauve, although in reality it is a dark blue with hundreds of tiny red pin spots. One of the many variations of the uniform caters for pregnant staff, of which, according to BA there are usually about 400 at the check-in desks.

Asda at head of cash call queue

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

ASDA Group, Britain's fourth-biggest food retailer, has launched a rights issue to raise £347 million to fund expansion of superstores in the teeth of strong competition from better-funded rivals.

The rights issue, Asda's second in 15 months, was accompanied by a cheerful forecast that pre-tax profits will rise to £130 million, before exceptional credits of £9 million, in the year to May 1. This compares with profits of £87 million before one-off charges of £450 million in the previous year. The news lifted Asda 4¾p to 67¾p even though the total dividend is forecast to fall from 2.1p to 1.6p, with a final dividend of 1.1p.

Asda had been one of a series of companies expected to use the current strength of the equity market to shore up ravaged balance sheets. It assured itself a place at the front of the queue with yesterday's rights issue.

The rights issue, underwritten by Morgan Grenfell, is similar in size to the last fund-raising in October 1991, a rescue package that raised £357 million, but is on less dilutive terms to shareholders. They are offered three new shares for every 10 held at 53p; 15 months ago they were offered a nine shares for every ten at 35p and were told that the only other alternative was receivership.

Initial plans under Asda's three-year recovery plan were to go to shareholders later this year, but a strong trading performance over Christmas and the strength of the share price appear to have prompted an earlier call.

Paul Smiddy, analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said: "It's about a year earlier than it needs to be, and they are taking advantage of a rather ridiculously strong share price. They aren't going to spend the money in a hurry."

Tempus, page 23

LBC breaks free from troubled Crown

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

JOHN Porter, son of Dame Shirley Porter, the former leader of Westminster council, has emerged as one of the new owners of LBC, the London commercial radio station, after Crown Communications, LBC's parent company, went into administrative receivership with debts of £16 million.

The LBC transaction by Chelverton Investments, a company established by Mr Porter and Michael Cartisser, is valued at £14 million and involves an injection of £7 million of new capital. Chelverton had been in negotiation with Crown, whose chairman is Christopher Chataway, since November.

Lady Porter, at one time a director of rival Capital Radio, may play a proactive role in LBC at a later stage, but the station's political impartiality would not be impaired, Mr Cartisser said.

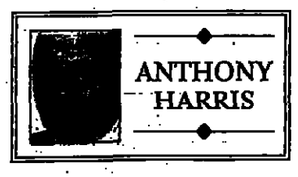
Under the deal with Crown's receivers, Chelverton acquires London Broadcasting (*LBC*, *Newstalk* and *London Talkback Radio*), which claims an 18.5 per cent market share of the London radio market.

The process of renewal of LBC's franchise starts in March, with the name of the successful applicant announced in October. LBC said the Chelverton transaction makes it financially secure, and that it is confident of retaining the franchise.

Crown Communications Group went into administrative receivership yesterday after its bankers, ANZ and the Bank of Scotland, withdrew their support. This action followed developments in France on Wednesday. Crown had hoped to sell its 70 per cent stake in the loss-making French radio station RFM, but in a surprise developemnt the French radio authorities blocked the sale.

Crown's board said it was "amazed" by the French action, and refutes the reasons given by the French for blocking its planned deal.

Debt and the fall of the dinosaurs



ANTHONY HARRIS

President Clinton's campaign HQ was dominated by a simple slogan: "The economy, stupid!" This inspired a very successful election strategy, though the thought, as we now know, was a bit behind the times. The latest figures confirm that the US economy is now at least six months into quite a solid recovery. This was not visible to voters at the time; the figures are always late, and ordinary citizens can be forgiven for slow responses. Professionals ought to be smarter, both in understanding the crisis, and spotting when it was over. In Washington, they were; but Wall Street lagged behind, while in London only a few, led by market economists, woke up in good time. The rest are now beginning to catch up, and the Bank of England, later still, is beginning to pay some attention to them.

The puzzle they failed to address was why the present recession is proving so deep and so obstinate. This was forecast by one or two monetary economists, notably Professors Gordon Pepper and Tim Congdon, but they were dismissed as eccentric doomsayers. Now their favourite phrase, debt deflation, appears on the covers of circular after circular and there will probably be a full-scale academic conference on the subject before the year is out; it will all get terribly complicated. You know the general picture: phrases like "corporate debt burden" and "negative equity" are now part of the language even of political correspondents. It is complicated because these obstacles are partly mythical, and in any case very hard to measure. Yet the central problem, which was spotted by the US Federal Reserve years ago, is simple in Clintonese. "The banks, stupid!"

The banks outside the US do not make much money any more, and the profits they report owe more smoke and mirrors than to sound trading. In the past two years, for example, the British clearing banks have paid out more in dividends than their miserable profits after bad-debt provision; and the blunter chairmen warn that things will get worse before they get better. There are always nasty surprises: bank assets are like mined-out land; huge cracks and holes can appear without warning. In Japan it is much worse: the official estimates for likely bank losses on property lending are so terrifying (up to a tenth of reported assets, and therefore more than banking capital) that they have emerged only in leaks. The finance ministry is now a full time bank bail-out agency. Over the Channel, bankers tend to be smug. They did not join fully in the lending frenzy of the 1980s but the recession which will turn their loans bad has only just begun, and may yet suck them down the same hole that has swallowed the Scandinavian banking system.

A bust banking system means a long-term economic depression, as Walter Bagehot (working without official statistics or models) warned us more than a century ago. He urged aggressive lending by the central bank. Keynes, addressing the same problem 60 years ago, said the state should act, in effect, as borrower of last resort. That was essentially the Fed answer: it cut its market rate so low that banks could make risk-free profits by buying short-dated government paper, and they have accepted this subsidy with delight. In Britain, under-funding would have the same effect: easy funding for the government, a rise in the broad money supply, and a recovery in bank profits. Enthusiasts should note that even this cure is slow. Low market rates cut savers' income much quicker than they stimluate investment. The first impact is deflationary, for there is no such thing as a free subsidy.

But will this cost disappear when we have written off the follies? A recent paper published by David Llewellyn, of the University of Loughborough, suggests it may not: banking could well be a declining industry. It is a plausible picture: there are too many banks, their costs and charges are excessive, and their one-time comparative advantage, information about credit-worthiness, is now shared with every rating agency. In a century or two, their great halls of business may seem as strange as the skeletons of dinosaurs. Meanwhile, we may have to nationalise them, or go on paying subsidies until someone comes up with a better way to pay bills and finance small business.

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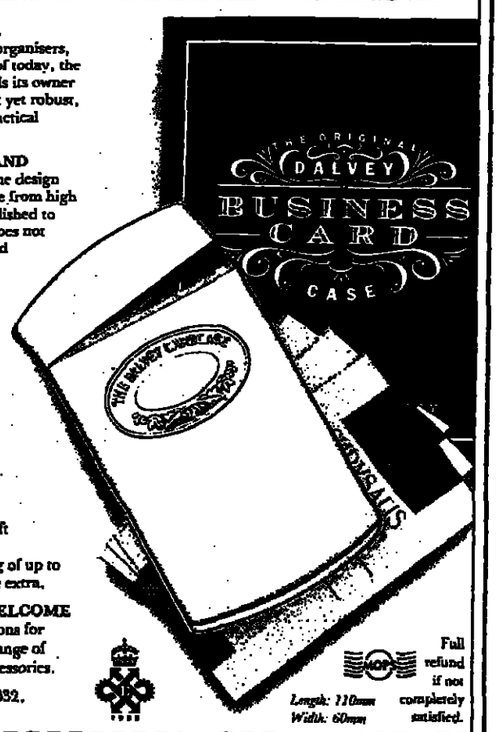
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Name on Card: .....
Signature: .....

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Stakis marks return to black with call for cash

■ Back in profit, the streamlined company will emerge from the latest restructuring with gearing reduced to 42 per cent from 77 per cent and a brighter future

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

STAKIS, the hotels and casinos group, declared itself on the move again yesterday with plans for a £28 million rights issue, the £50 million sale of its nursing home arm and a restructuring of its finances.

Sir Lewis Robertson, the company doctor who was appointed chairman of the troubled group in March 1991, also unveiled a recovery from a pre-tax loss of £47.4 million in 1991 to a £300,000 profit in the year to September 27. The dividend for the year is halved from 0.9p to 0.45p.

Sir Lewis said Stakis's problem had been the "quite serious mismatch between financing capacity and development ambitions, and that this had happened at a time of high interest rates and a sluggish economy".

He said that the company decided to sell the Ashbourne Homes nursing home business for three reasons: the hotels division has substantial recovery potential; it proved impossible to sell the Casinos division at any acceptable price; and Ashbourne needed £70 million to make use of unbuilt sites.

A syndicate led by Electra will complete the acquisition of Ashbourne on Monday. Its management will have a small stake in the new company and Stakis will receive a quarter of the profit of any sale or flotation of Ashbourne over the next three years above a 35 per cent rate of return.

The 1-for-3 rights issue at 32p a share is at a 22 per cent discount to Stakis's 41p closing share price on Wednesday night. The shares, which have been depressed in anticipation of the rights issue, recovered to 45p yesterday.

Thanks to the sale of Ashbourne and the rights issue cash, Stakis has agreed new banking arrangements that will see its number of banks reduced. Sir Lewis said Stakis will now be "aided by nine, not hindered by 21 banks". The Ashbourne and rights issue cash will be used to repay the other 12. The new arrangements will provide Stakis with two-year facilities, including a term loan of £110 million and multiple option facilities of £25 million.

The addidional cash will push year-end debt of £197 million down to under £120 million and reduce the ratio of debt to equity from 77 per cent to 42 per cent.

Yesterday's figures also included a £47.7 million extraordinary write off of the Ashbourne business against book value and also includes about £3 million of refinancing costs.

The figures showed operating profits of £13.8 million in the hotels business, up from £7.15 million, and a small increase in casino profits from £6.5 million to £6.6 million.

David Michels, chief executive since December 1991, said hotel occupancy is increasing but there is still no sign of an end to the recession.

Of the discontinued businesses, healthcare increased profits from £1.98 million to £3.4 million; leisure profits fell from £3.13 million to £76,000 and commercial property losses were reduced from £1.1 million to £21,000.

Stakis announced its intention to pull out of commercial property speculation last year. Its disposal programme continues. At the year end, the company reported property with a book value of £17.5 million. Yesterday, Sir Lewis revealed that is now down to £11.5 million and he hopes it will stand at £5 million by the end of the year. Sir Lewis dismissed recent reports that he is about to step down from the group, saying he plans to stay on.

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No rush: Derek Hunt, chairman, says sales in the crucial post-Christmas period have been down on last year

MFI issues sales warning as half-time profit slides

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN

MFI, the kitchen and bedroom furniture supplier, gave warning that sales have fallen in its important post-Christmas trading period. The company also announced pro forma taxable profits down from £19 million to £12.7 million for the 28 weeks to November 7.

The pro forma numbers, which include earnings per share down from 2.1p to 1.4p, are to give a clearer view of the company's trading performance, stripped of the cost of last July's flotation. On a consolidated basis, the group made losses of £12 million before tax.

At the time of the flotation, more than half of the shares offered to the public at 115p were left with the underwriters.

Yesterday, as Derek Hunt, chairman, revealed that turnover had fallen from £321.6 million to £303.6 million, and that he foresaw no early trading upturn, the shares fell 5p to 130p. Mr Hunt, who, with senior directors, got the lion's share of an £11 million bonus payout at the time of the flotation, said 30 per cent of the group's sales were normally achieved in the ten weeks after Christmas. Trading for this period so far was down on last year, but he declined to say by how much.

Sales of the group's higher-priced core products, fitted kitchen and bathroom furniture, continued to disappoint, the chairman said. These comprise more than two thirds of total sales. Verdict, the retailing consultancy, estimates that the company has 25 per cent of the market in kitchens and 20 per cent in bedrooms.

The interim dividend is 1.25p. Mr Hunt said gross margins were depressed by the fact that the proportion of turnover accounted for by goods from MFI's own factories — currently 60 per cent of total merchandise — has fallen. MFI's difficulties began with the sterling crisis in September. The chairman said that sales until then were in line with those of the previous year.

MFI has 175 UK stores, and the 45 that have been refurbished are seeing sales growth of 6½ per cent. The group also intends to accelerate its push into France, where it has 35 outlets. It seeks a "critical mass" of 50 as a platform for television advertising there, Mr Hunt said.

Although payroll costs were higher in the first half, owing to a pay review, redundancy costs and Sunday trading, these are expected to be more in line with last year's in the second half.

Mr Hunt added that, because of costs, MFI would in future open on Sundays only in the post-Christmas sales period and when weekends were followed by a Bank Holiday Monday.

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Directors opposing protégé quit Amex

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THREE directors have resigned from American Express as turmoil continued in the boardroom of the travel and charge card company after the controversial appointment of its new chief executive.

The three — whose service with American Express totals 32 years — unsuccessfully opposed a plan by James Robinson, the chairman, to promote his protégé Harvey Golub to the post of chief executive.

Until this week, Mr Robinson held both positions, but non-executive directors had called for him to stand aside in the wake of the group's financial troubles.

Net income in the final three months of last year fell 65 per cent to $82 million, and profits of its core travel business fell 38 per cent to $243 million for 1992. That business made almost $1 billion profit in 1990.

But after a heated five-hour board meeting on Monday, 15 of the 19 directors voted Mr Golub, 53, into the job and effectively cemented Mr Robinson's position at the head of firm. Since the decision, American Express shares have fallen 15 per cent on Wall Street and stand less than $3 off their 1993 low.

The longest serving director to resign is Rawleigh Warner, 71, former chairman and chief executive of Mobil Corporation and an American Express director for 20 years.

Four months ago, some non-executive directors had called for Robinson, 57, to step down and for an outsider to be brought in.

Owners urges rejection of 'cheap' Airtours bid

THE battle for control of Owners Abroad, the package holiday group, continued yesterday as the company described the £220 million hostile bid from rival Airtours as an attempt to buy it on the cheap. Howard Klein, Owners Abroad's chairman, urged shareholders to reject the bid, which at yesterday's prices values shares of Owners Abroad at 111.7p, compared with a stockmarket price of 115p. He said the takeover bid undervalues the company by as much as 40 per cent.

Mr Klein said the company's planned alliance with Thomas Cook and LTU will boost profits by £7 million in the 1993/4 financial year and by £8 million in the following year. He described the Airtours bid as defensive and as reflecting "their own limited prospects". Airtours later branded Owners' defence document as "predictably weak, promising little more than jam tomorrow". Airtours said Owners is withholding important financial information from shareholders, such as results for the year to October 31 and forecasts for the current year.

De La Rue chief dies

PETER Orchard, chairman of De La Rue, the world's largest currency printing company, died yesterday. He was 65. No cause of death was immediately made public, but the company called the death sudden and unexpected. Mr Orchard became non-executive chairman of De La Rue in 1987. He joined the firm in 1950, became a director in 1963 and was named chief executive in 1977, a title he later relinquished to become chairman. Mr Orchard was also a non-executive director of Delta.

Allied food branch sold

DCA Food Industries, the American food ingredients unit of Allied-Lyons, has sold the consumer products part of its Golden Dipt Company to McCormick, the Maryland-based spices and seasonings producer. The disposal covers a range of sauces, seasonings and packaged coatings which are marketed to retail customers under the Golden Dipt and Nature Bay brand names. DCA will continue to manufacture its range of food service and industrial ingredients. Allied said the consideration was not material in relation to net assets.

Trafalgar joint venture

TRAFALGAR House is linking with Effjohn Oy, a Finnish shipping group, in a joint marketing venture involving its Cunard line and Effjohn's Crown Cruise line. The venture, Cunard Crown, will market Cunard's Countess and Princess liners and Effjohn's Crown Monarch, Crown Jewel and Crown Dynasty cruise ships. Cunard's Queen Elizabeth II liner is not included. The agreement, which runs for an initial ten years, increases the number of berths marketed by Cunard by 40 per cent to a total 7,000.

Misys raises payout



MISYS, the financial and computer services group chaired by Kevin Lomax, right, says acquisitions made last year contributed to higher interim results for the six months to November 30, when pre-tax profits rose from £3.59 million to £6.76 million on turnover of £41.1 million (£32.3 million). Cash balances rose from £9.9 million a year previously to £12.4 million. The interim dividend rises from 2.27p to 2.61p.

North Sea output rises

OIL output from the British sector of the North Sea rose 2 per cent last year to 1.89 million barrels per day (bpd), according to the Royal Bank of Scotland's oil index. But December output fell 2.1 per cent, or nearly 42,000 bpd, to 1.99 million bpd from November and 1.4 per cent from December 1991. Output from BP's Clyde field, Leven and Miller was down, while Shell's Fulmar field, Phillips' Maureen and Total's Alwyn North also fell. December North Sea revenue fell almost 10 per cent to £23.1 million per day.

Farepak losses grow

FAREPAK, best-known for its Christmas hampers, has declared its usual pre-tax loss for the first half to end-October, but the deficit has deepened to £965,000 (£613,000 loss). The group makes most of its mail order and food processing sales in the second half. Sales of hampers were up 5 per cent this Christmas, with a total of 800,000 delivered. The number of agents collecting money rose 5,000 to 55,000. Food processing has increased sales over the same period in 1991, although margins have been affected by cost increases.

Cap Gemini plans for cuts of up to 1,500 jobs

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

CAP Gemini Sogeti, the French computer services company, estimated 1992 will show a loss of FFr80 million, compared with a profit of FFr560 million in the previous year. The company also gave warning of plans to cut between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs as part of a restructuring programme.

Geoff Unwin, chairman of Hoskyns, CGS's British subsidiary, said restructuring did not only mean job cuts. "What we are seeing is a large investment in re-skilling people from old technologies to new technologies," he said.

Group turnover for 1992 was estimated at FFr12 billion, a rise of 19 per cent, with operating profit after writing off goodwill, estimated at about three per cent of turnover, down from 7.2 per cent.

Factors affecting net profit included a FFr338 million restructuring charge, a provision of FFr117 million for paying back a convertible bond issued in February 1990 and a capital gain of FFr318 million for the sale of property in central Paris to Sogeti, the parent company.

Cap Gemini Sogeti said it does not expect a recovery this year and that a return to growth and profitability will come after 1993. The company said: "The current economic environment hardly leaves room to hope for a spectaculer improvement in the results in 1993, because the activity of service firms is clearly linked to those of their clients."

The restructuring programme includes job cuts already announced at Cap Sesa, the French subsidiary, which came to just under 500 instead of the proposed 600. Limited restructuring continues in the Netherlands and Italy. Britain and the Nordic countries have already suffered cuts. Cap Gemini employs 22,000 people.

Tokyo shares rise on rate cut hopes

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

YASUSHI Mieno, governor of the Bank of Japan, can expect to be subjected to intense scrutiny today at his first press appearance in more than a month, as pressure mounts for a cut in the official discount rate of at least 50 basis points from the present 3.25 per cent.

Anticipation of a fiscal stimulus to boost the economy appears to be gaining momentum and strong gains were recorded on the Tokyo stock market yesterday. The Nikkei 225 index closed up 553.73 points at 17,063.41.

But despite repeated assurances from the Bank of Japan and the ministry of finance that recovery is imminent, official figures released this week indicate that a turnaround is still at least six months away.

Consumer confidence has slumped in the past two months and department store sales have recorded their worst performance in ten years. Household spending rose by just 0.2 per cent in November against a year earlier and by just 0.5 per cent in the first ten months of 1992 compared with the same period in 1991.

Consumers, reacting to the continuing economic slowdown and concerned about the rapid rise in personal bankruptcy cases, cut back severely on household appliances, furniture, electronics and gifts, according to the Management and Co-ordination Agency.

Industrial production figures released on Wednesday were the worst in six years. December preliminary industrial production fell 1 per cent month-on-month and was down 8.2 per cent for the year. While the ministry of international trade and industry predicts a 1.9 per cent increase for January, followed by a strong rise of 2.3 per cent for February, many private sector analysts are sceptical.

"We doubt that the official optimism is justified, given further evidence of more corporate and household retrenchment," said Jesper Koll, chief economist at SG Warburg Securities in Tokyo.

The government's Economic Planning Agency released figures on Tuesday showing that the leading economic indicator remained below the "boom or bust" level of 50 per cent in November, for the fourth consecutive month. The EPA's index, which forecasts economic activity four to six months ahead, stood at 30 per cent in November against 22.7 per cent in October. Figures above 50 per cent indicate economic expansion while those below indicate contraction. The index is based on projections that showed fewer job openings, a slowdown of construction activity and continued shrinkage of consumption and capital investment in the private sector.

As consumption accounts for more than 55 per cent of Japan's GNP, economic recovery is judged by many to hinge on a recovery in consumer confidence. To that end pressure is rising on Mr Mieno for a cut in the ODR and on the government for a cut in income tax. Hajime Funada, head of the EPA, acknowledged that the government is considering income tax cuts and a reduction in housing-related taxes.


Under pressure: Yasushi Mieno, Bank of Japan chief

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

AB CONSULTING (int)
Pre-tax: £849,000 loss
EPS: 5.4p loss
Div: 0.3p (2.2p)
Interim profit last time was £327,000, with earnings of 2.7p a share. Cash reserves at end of October were unchanged at £2.4m

FRENCH (THOMAS) (fin)
Pre-tax: £110,000
EPS: 0.19p (5.51p)
Div: 2.175p, mkg 3.625p
Profit in previous year was £285,000. Turnover eased to £13.2m from £14.4m after disposals. Net borrowings were £2.15m

GRESHAM TELECOM (fin)
Pre-tax: £787,000
EPS: 1.94p (1p)
Div: 0.25p, mkg 0.25p
Profit in previous year was £355,000. Dividend up 13pc after adjustment of last payment after Telecomputing merger

JURYS HOTEL (int)
Pre-tax: Ir£2.16m
EPS: 7.6p (7.3p)
Div: 2p (2p)
Interim profit last time was Ir£2.07m. Trading levels in second half affected by high interest rates and currency volatility

PARTRIDGE FINE ART
Pre-tax: £1.11m (£2.16m)
EPS: 3.25p (6.54p)
Div: 1.25p, mkg 2.25p
Final. Last year's dividend 2.25p. Turnover fell from £9.6m to £8.4m but operating expenses rose from £1.8m to £1.92m

PRISM LEISURE (int)
Pre-tax: £478,000
EPS: 3.8p (3p)
Div: 0.9p
Interim profit last time was £374,000. Dividend increased by 20pc after adjustment for capitalisation issue

PROTEUS INTL (int)
Pre-tax: £1.2m loss
EPS: 4.73p loss
Div: Nil (nil)
Interim loss last year was £1.2m, with a loss per share of 5.12p. Operating loss rose to £1.5m from £1.1m but interest charge fell

SAVILLE GORDON (int)
Pre-tax: £1.26m (£1.35m)
EPS: 0.85p (0.9p)
Div: 0.5p (0.5p)
Turnover reduced from £28.5m to £13.7m after withdrawal from securities trading. Substantial cut in interest charge in second half

DERBY TRUST (fin)
Pre-tax: £2.7m (£2.98m)
EPS: 16.6p (18.4p)
Div: 8.4p, mkg 16.62p
Total dividend last year was 18.43p. Net asset value rose from 343p a share to 382p. Gross revenue was £3m, against £3.3m

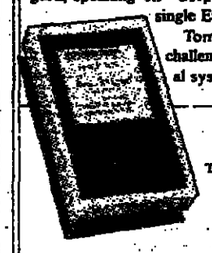
FIRTH (GM) (int)
Pre-tax: 1.5m loss
EPS: 4.46p loss
Div: Nil
Previous interim loss was £712,000 before tax, with a loss per share of 1.85p. Higher deficit blamed on strike at steel rolling mill

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Scottish food firm shops over the border

Watson and Philip, the Scottish-based food distributor and retailer, has announced a major expansion of its convenience store business with the purchase for £21 million of the private Circle K Group, that operates convenience stores in central and the south of England.

The terms of the deal will involve W&P paying £7.66 million in cash and issuing to the vendors 4.4 million new shares, giving the vendors 11.3 per cent of the enlarged W&P. In addition, W&P will take on more than £3 million of Circle K's borrowings.

"Circle K is an excellent fit with our existing business," said Ian Macpherson, chairman of W&P. He felt it would bring significant commercial benefits. W&P says the tie-up will give it extra purchasing and marketing power, and the critical mass to achieve further distribution efficiencies. It also believes savings can be made on overheads.

Circle K runs 150 of its own convenience stores, and has a further 60 operated by independent licensees and franchisees. It employs 2,500 and in its last full trading year made profits before tax and exceptional items of £2 million. The acquisition will mean a combined group with 240 wholly-owned convenience stores, proforma net assets of nearly £50 million, and net gearing of 18.5 per cent.

Less than two years ago W&P more than doubled in size when it merged with Amalgamated Foods, its Midlands rival. The latest purchase, it claims, will make it one of the leading convenience store operators in the UK.



Takeover architect: Chris Greentree led the £1 billion acquisition of Ultramar; but Lasmo has since been under financial pressure

Shares in Lasmo drop as chief executive quits

By Patricia Tehan

SHARES in Lasmo, the oil group, fell 8p to 155p after it was announced that Chris Greentree, the chief executive, was leaving. Speculation grew that the company would be forced to cut its dividend.

In a brief announcement to the Stock Exchange, Lasmo said Mr Greentree was stepping down "to pursue other interests". Joe Darby, the chief operating officer, is to take his place, though Mr Greentree will remain as an adviser during the transition.

Mr Greentree, 58, was paid £302,713 in 1991 and still has two years of his contract to run. He also has options on 435,000 shares under employee share option schemes, as well as options to buy 114,000 shares at 248p.

Lord Rees, the company's chairman, said the size of Mr Greentree's settlement had not yet been worked out.

He said Mr Greentree was two years away from retirement but his workload had been gruelling over the past two years, with the £1 billion acquisition of Ultramar in 1991 and the sale of downstream assets last year, which had realised about $1.5 billion.

Lasmo would continue to dispose of non-core assets.

Mr Darby is seen as someone who will not flinch from curbing costs. He joined the Lasmo board in 1990 after the company's takeover of Thomson North Sea in 1989.

Veronique Hoyaux, oil analyst with NatWest Securities, said the change of leader was potentially good news for Lasmo in the medium term, as Mr Darby was more conservative and cautious than Mr Greentree.

She said Lasmo has been under financial pressure since Mr Greentree led Lasmo into its acquisition of Ultramar. She predicted the disposal of the Markham North Sea gas field, valued at £100 million, and the Balmoral North Sea oil field, which is worth about £10 million.

Lasmo said it would release its financial results for 1992 on March 24. They would be broadly in line with market estimates.

NatWest Securities forecasts a fall in net income from £37 million to £29 million, and earnings per share of 3.1p compared with 3.4p.

Ms Hoyaux said the company could not afford to maintain its 8.5p dividend for the year and predicted a cut of at least half.

Tempus, page 23

France issues warning over US duties on steel

By Colin Narbrough and Tom Walker

Although Europe put on a brave face, the EC is under enormous pressure on all fronts to retaliate against America's new anti-dumping duties on steel products

PUNITIVE duties imposed by America on imported steel unleashed a storm of protest and threats of retaliation from governments and steelmakers around the world.

But amid fears that the world trade talks could be further jeopardised by the Clinton administration's decision to uphold anti-dumping complaints against imported steel, the stock market saw the minimal impact on British Steel as an opportunity to mark up the shares.

France, which is still resisting the accord struck between the European Commission and Washington on agricultural subsidies that unlocked the Uruguay round of Gatt talks, yesterday delivered the loudest protest over steel.

Pierre Bérégovoy, the French prime minister, told a news conference that Europe would have to take "countermeasures" if America went down the path of protectionism. "I hope that the Americans will think twice," he said.

The preliminary decision announced by Washington on Wednesday imposed penalty tariffs on steel entering America from 19 countries, including the big European steelmaking nations, Japan and Canada. The stiffest duty — 109.22 per cent — was imposed on Britain, but British exports to America are insignificant.

President Clinton appeared to underline his "America first" stance yesterday, in remarks about the latest surge in layoffs by big American companies. Although the steel duties were almost unavoidable under America's fair trade laws, the rest of the world appeared to read the move as a signal that the new administration could be more protectionist than its forerunner.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French trade and industry minister, warned Washington that the European Community could file a complaint to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. "The Americans push for a Gatt accord and, elsewhere, do exactly the opposite," he said.

While British Steel exports only about 35,000 tonnes a year to America, the big state-owned French producer, Usinor-Sacilor, faces prohibitive penalties on 500,000 tonnes. François Mer, head of the steel group, said the American move was "unfair and dishonest". Usinor last year lost FFr2.4 billion francs. In Germany, Europe's leading steelmaker, the government left it to industry to protest. Ruprecht Vondran, president of the German Iron and Steel Association, accused America, for decades the most important guarantor of free world trade, of violating those principles. "The world's biggest economic power has delivered a serious blow to the principles of an international division of labour," he said.

The association urged that European governments respond with "all decisiveness". About 600,000 tonnes of German steel worth $500 million would be affected immediately if the temporary duties are upheld. Thyssen, the biggest German steel company, yesterday reported a fall in net profit to DM350 million last year from DM520 million the year before. It is expected to break even this year.

British Steel said the duty did not affect a significant area of its business, but considered it "extremely unsatisfactory". It is to contest the decision before America's International Trade Commission this year.

Eurofer, the European steel association, said all legal and political means had to be used by the community to confront the situation. It said the American action would only rebound on American industries and consumers. Eurofer pointed out that between 1982 and 1992 the community had voluntarily restrained exports to America.

Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, warned the Japanese parliament that America might adopt tougher trade policies under President Clinton and would make "stronger demands of Japan". The Japanese government and industry called for a new global steel pact to be signed soon by leading exporters.

The European Commission put a brave face on the sanctions, insisting there was no "ideological change" in American attitudes towards Europe.

Ron Brown, the US commerce secretary, has said the new anti-dumping duties on EC steel products were a rollover from countervailing duties imposed in November, and could not be directly associated with the new regime. Sir Leon Brittan, the European economic affairs commissioner, said he could not see how Washington could unilaterally apply duties to steel products. He did not rule out retaliation.

American deal by BT thrown in doubt

From Philip Robinson in New York

BRITISH Telecom's $2 billion deal to sell its shares in McCaw Cellular Communications to AT&T, America's largest long-distance carrier, seemed in doubt last night. Three American telephone companies lodged objections with the US government.

The sale of BT's 22 per cent stake in McCaw — the largest US cellular telephone company — is part of a $3.73 billion investment plan that would give AT&T a 33 per cent stake in McCaw and could eventually lead to control.

American regional telephone companies say the deal would enable AT&T to avoid putting long distance business through the local telephone companies, and would be a springboard from which it could achieve a monopoly in mobile telephones.

In a petition to the Federal Communications Commission, Nynex Corporation, Southwestern Bell and Bell Atlantic say the deal would put AT&T back in the local telephone business. The break up of the giant in 1984 was designed to prevent that.

They have asked the commission either to scrap limits on their own cellular business, or to apply them to AT&T.

McCaw shareholders have reportedly been uneasy with the terms of the sale, under which BT will get $49 a share and interest, or about $175 billion in cash, for its stake. McCaw's share price was $36.5 last night.

AT&T plans to take its stake to 33 per cent by investing a further $2 billion in new McCaw shares at $42 each. It will also pay Craig McCaw, the founder chairman and chief executive, $100 million for the option to take voting control within seven years. If the deal goes through, BT will make a $300 million profit on its McCaw investment.

In a statement, AT&T said no government investigation was necessary; its move would not inhibit competition.

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Ian Maxwell faces bankruptcy petition

By Our City Staff

A BANKRUPTCY petition is to be presented against Ian Maxwell in the next two days.

It comes despite his objection that his appeal against the £500,000 damages judgment on which the petition is based has yet to be decided. The High Court yesterday gave permission for the petition to be issued by the liquidators of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), which ran the Mirror Group pension funds plundered by Mr Maxwell's late father, publisher Robert Maxwell.

The liquidators are seeking to recover the missing millions and protect pensioners' interests. To that end, they obtained a damages judgment against Ian Maxwell last month. Among the sums of money to which they lay claim is £250,000 paid in legal fees to Kingsley Napley, Mr Maxwell's solicitors, under the terms of a legal charge made in their favour on his Belgravia flat on July 31 last year. The fees were paid after the flat was sold for £460,000.

To have any chance of challenging the payment to Kingsley Napley, the liquidators needed to issue a bankruptcy petition by January 31 to stay within the six-month legal time limit from the date on which the charge arose.

In last month's judgment, Mr Maxwell, 36, was ordered to pay BIM £500,000 "on account" pending a final assessment of his liability to pay damages for breach of his duty as a BIM director. BIM has already obtained judgment for £406.5 million against Kevin Maxwell, 33. Yesterday, the court rejected argument by Ian Maxwell's lawyers that the £500,000 interim payment order against him did not constitute a "debt" on which a bankruptcy petition could be based because it was not a final order reflecting his true indebtedness, and was subject to review by the Court of Appeal in February.

The judge authorised the liquidators to present a bankruptcy petition immediately, although they cannot actually seek to have Mr Maxwell made bankrupt until after the Court of Appeal has ruled on his appeal against the damages judgment.

UAL forecasts gloom as losses deepen

From Our Correspondent in New York

STEPHEN Wolf, chairman and chief executive of UAL, parent company of United Airlines, delivered a gloomy forecast for the world aviation industry yesterday as his airline reported a near-$1 billion loss for last year.

"The industry remains in a state of chaos and although all affected had hoped the economy would strengthen, that rational pricing would return and that barriers to international competition would be reduced, prudence dictates that United must proceed as if none of these factors will improve.

"Unacceptable is the only way to describe our fourth quarter and full-year results," he said.

United's red ink follows a near-$1 billion loss reported by its main rival, AMR, parent company of American Airlines, whose chairman, Robert Crandall, said much of the optimism over an economic recovery was unwarranted.

Wall Street raised fears yesterday that Delta, third largest of the US carriers, is likely to cut its dividend by 83 per cent. Ronald Allen, chairman, has given warning: "We've seen difficult times, but those don't compare with what we have today. We're talking survival now."

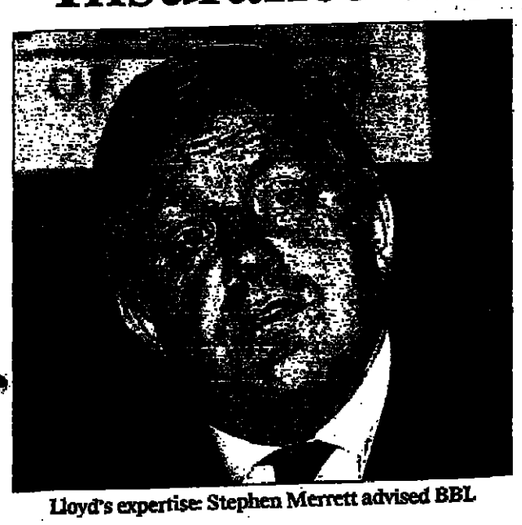
The parlous state of the US airline industry is likely to harden attitudes and increase pressure by American operators for greater access to Britain's market in exchange for government approval of British Airways' $300 million investment in USAir.

USAir, which lost almost $1.3 billion last year, yesterday reached agreement to drop 40 per cent of its new plane orders with Boeing, which has announced production cutbacks of between 30 and 40 per cent.

United is still in discussions with Boeing over orders for almost 140 planes, which Mr Wolf said would have to be reduced significantly. The airline has announced plans to cut 2,800 jobs from a total 83,000, cut senior pay by 5 per cent and axe one in five of its top executives. It needs to save $400 million a year.

Insurance case spotlights brokers' duty of care

By Sarah Bagnall



Lloyd's expertise: Stephen Merrett advised BBL

EAGLE Star's switch from defendant to claimant in the multi-million pound trial involving mortgage indemnity policies on £308 million of commercial loans made by Bank Bruxelles Lambert has turned the spotlight on the role of insurance brokers and their duty of care to clients.

BBL alleges that Maurice Markovits, a defendant in the trial and the broker of the policies, failed to pass on important information. The lack of this information, the Belgian bank alleges, caused it a loss.

BBL, which sought advice from Stephen Merrett, an underwriter and deputy chairman of Lloyd's of London, argues that it is a broker's role to pass on necessary information. However, Mr Markovits, a former financial consultant with Allied Dunbar, another defendant and a sister company to Eagle Star, claims he was not required to do so because BBL was not his client; and if he had done so, it would have created a conflict of interest with his clients.

As a result of this week's out-of-court settlement between BBL and Eagle Star, Mr Markovits is requesting the judge's permission to obtain expert evidence from the insurance industry on what is considered a broker's duty of disclosure.

Before Eagle Star and BBL settled, the fight between the two was widely expected to centre on other issues, which could have eradicated any need to scrutinise the role of insurance brokers.

Eagle Star, as the first defendant, was using as a main plank of its defence the relationship between Mr Markovits and Stephen Fraser, a BBL employee who later worked for Mr Markovits. Mr Fraser allegedly received commission from Mr Markovits while at BBL.

However, because of the settlement, this evidence is no longer available. That is a considerable setback for the remaining defendants, Mr Markovits, Allied Dunbar and two firms of chartered surveyors were relying on Eagle Star to prove points that could then be used as part of their own evidence.

Mr Justice Nicholas Phillips, the judge on the case, who also presided over the Barlow Clowes trial, said he had initially thought Eagle Star's out-of-court settlement with BBL would simplify proceedings; he now thought it would complicate them.

Mr Phillips, who was hearing views from the remaining defendants on whether BBL should be allowed to amend its proceedings because of the settlement and, if so, whether the defendants in turn should be allowed to up-date their defence, said he would not be able to give an answer before the weekend.

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STOCK MARKET

City expects bid for Union Discount

SPECULATION was rife in the Square Mile last night that **Union Discount** may be about to come under the hammer.

Gerrard & National, the rival discount house that was 3p better at 395p yesterday, is said to be ready to launch an agreed bid for Union, which includes Aitken Campbell, the Scottish market-making operation, and an investment arm with £1 billion of funds under management.

However, the City whispers suggest the deal will not include Winterflood Securities, the profitable market-making operation headed by Brian Winterflood and specialising in smaller companies. It is thought that Winterflood may merge with the likes of **Smith New Court**, up 4p at 130p.

Union, one of the City's oldest firms, said in November that it was in bid talks after a flurry of speculative buying that lifted the price from 61p to 96p in a week. Last night, the price closed 1p firmer at 107p. That price was riding at 600p last year, but was hit by loss-making diversifications into leasing and property. At the last count, rival **Cater Allen**, up 2p at 430p, had 3 per cent of Union.

The rest of the equity market lacked impetus and attempts at a rally proved futile. With no lead from Wall Street, prices closed near their low of the day, with the FT-SE 100 index 15.6 points lower at 2,816.9, although trading was boosted to 828 million by a number of specialist situations and profit taking before the end of the account.

The pound's continued volatility and several large fund-raising excercises deterred investors from opening any fresh positions for the new account starting on Monday.

Lasmo closed off the bottom, with a fall of 8p to 155p, after 152p. This followed news of the surprise resignation of Chris Greentree, the chairman. In heavy trading, more than 21 million shares changed hands, with dealers fearing a dividend cut. The City believes that under Mr Greentree's leadership the dividend remained safe, although not covered by earnings. Borrowings rose sharply after last year's acquisition of Ultramar and after the expected disposals to help finance the business failed to materialise.

Early attention was focused on **Asda**, the supermarket chain, which jumped 5p to 68p after confirming plans to raise £347 million by way of a rights issue on the basis of three for ten at 53p. The money will be used to accelerate the group's recovery programme and bring forward the replacement of ageing stores. Sales had shown an increase of 2 per cent year-on-year, while the group has forecast pre-tax profits of £130 million for the year to May. A total dividend of 1.6p, against 2.1p, is expected.

There was mixed reaction to the news among the other supermarket chains. **J Sainsbury** rose 3p to 575p, while **Argyll** slipped 3p to 400p, **Tesco** 2p to 265p, and **William Morrison Supermarkets** 2p to 168p.

Stakis, the hotel and leisure group, has also confirmed plans to raise extra funds by way of a rights issue and a disposal. It is asking shareholders for an extra £27.95 million on the basis of one-for-three at 32p. It is also hoping to raise £50 million from the sale of its nursing homes division. The money will be used to cut debt from 77 to 42 per cent. Pre-tax profits for the year recovered from a £47.4 million loss to a profit of £300,000. The dividend was maintained.

The market was unimpressed with half-year figures from recently floated **MFI**, the furniture group, showing a downturn in pre-tax profits.

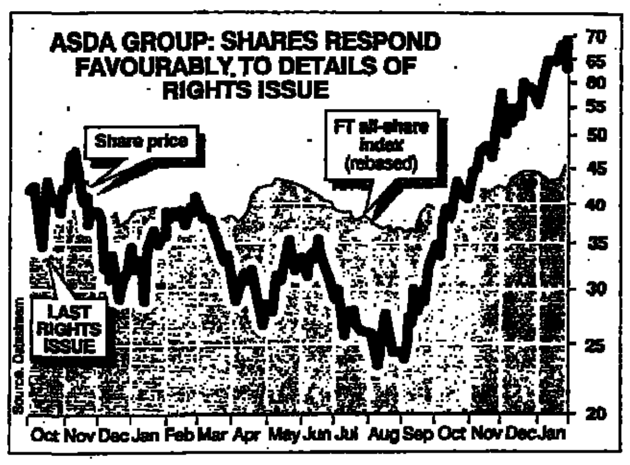
News of the out-of-court settlement in the passive smoking case upset the tobacco producers, with **BAT Industries** down 13p at 975p and **Rothmans International** 'B' 16p lower at 612p. Brokers fear the move will open the floodgates to other claims by non-smokers and result in increased legislation to stop people smoking in public. Confidence in the tobacco groups was also undermined by the latest attempts to ban tobacco advertising.

BM Group, the construction equipment distributor, was a late faller, sliding 10p to 50p. The group's fortunes have gone into decline since last June, when Roger Shute retired as chairman blaming ill-health. The shares were then standing at about 314p. The group issued a profits warning recently.

Harrington Kilbride, the publisher, stayed at 183p. The price has risen from about 170p this week, helped by institutional buying.

The pound's devaluation and this week's drop in interest rates has encouraged Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker, to take another look at the building materials sector. It is telling clients that despite uncertainties, they should focus on companies with the greatest potential rather than dwell on ratings. Those included on its buy list are **BPB Industries**, 2p lighter at 195p, **Blue Circle Industries**, 2p firmer at 226p, and **Marley**, unchanged at 98p. But **Tarmac**, ½p better at 111p, remains on the sell list.

MICHAEL CLARK



Tay Homes, 169p, held up well after Panmure Gordon cut its forecast to £4.5 million. *There are fears March profits* could drop to £3 million.

A change of broker has brought new life to **Britton Group**. It rose 1½p to 10¾p after Credit Lyonnais Laing arranged a client visit.

Dow firm as switch to blue chips continues

New York — Blue chip prices advanced to session highs and over-the-counter shares reversed as the market continuing its week-long switch into larger economically-sensitive stocks. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.48 points to 3,297.87 in mid-morning trading.

Bonds firmed on news of a preliminary 3.8 per cent US fourth quarter gross domestic product.

☐ **Tokyo** — Speculation of a rate cut pushed the Nikkei index up 553.73 points, or 3.35 per cent, to 17,063.41.

☐ **Hong Kong** — Shares slumped 2.28 per cent as overseas funds joined in a selling spree sparked by renewed Chinese criticism of the political reforms proposed for the colony by Chris Patten, the governor. The Hang Seng index fell 135.39 points to close at 5,804.50, as volume reached HK$2.58 billion (£220 million), up from Wednesday's HK$2.03 billion.

☐ **Singapore** — The Straits Times index closed 4.84 points lower at 1,598.23.

☐ **Frankfurt** — The Dax index rose 5.52 points to 1,567.84.

☐ **Sydney** — The All-Ordinaries index fell 8.1 points to 1,526.7.

Stock	Jan 28 midday	Jan 27 close
AMP Inc	57	55
AMR Corp	62	63
Abbott Labs	27	27
Aetna Life	50	49
Ahmanson (HF)	20	20
Air Prod & Chem	44	44
Albertson's	48	48
Alcan Aluminum	18	18
Alco Standard	39	39
Allied Signal	59	59
Alum Co of Am	73	72
Amax	17	18
Amerada Hess	47	47
Amer Brands	36	36
Amer Cyanamid	52	51
Amer El Power	33	33
Amer Express	22	23
Amer Genl Corp	57	57
Amer Home Pr	63	63
Amer Intl	110	110
Amer Stores	42	43
Amer T & T	52	53
Ameritech	73	73
Amoco	52	52
Anheuser-Busch	58	58
Apple Computer	59	60
Archer Daniels	26	26
Arkla	7	7
Armco	7	7
Armstrng Wrld	31	31
Asarco	26	26
Ashland Oil	27	27
Atl Richfield	116	115
Auto Data Pro	51	51
Avery Dennison	26	26
Avon Products	57	57
Baker Hughes	19	19
Baltim Gas & El	23	23
Banc One	50	50
BankAmerica	51	52
Bank of NY	58	58
Bankers Tr NY	66	67
Barnett Banks	43	43
Bausch & Lomb	53	53
Baxter Intl	30	30
Bectn Dickinsn	78	78
Bell Atlantic	53	52
BellSouth	53	53
Black & Decker	18	17
Block (H&R)	39	38
Boeing	34	34
Boise Cascade	24	24
Borden Inc	27	27
Bristol Myrs Sq	59	59
Browning Ferris	28	27
Burlington Nthn	46	45
CBS	187	189
CNA Financial	94	94
CPC Intl	47	47
CSX	72	72
Campbell Soup	41	41
Can Pacific	12	12
Cptl Cities ABC	482	429
Cptl Holdings	77	76
Carolina Pwr	57	57
Caterpillar	58	57
Central & SW	30	30
Champion Intl	28	28
Chase Manhtn	29	30
Chemical Bk	41	41
Chevron Corp	71	71
Chrysler	39	39
Chubb Corp	86	88
Cigna Corp	61	61
Citicorp	20	20
Clorox	46	45
Coastal Corp	26	24
Coca Cola	41	41
Colgate-Palmolive	57	56
Columbia Gas	19	19
Commonw Ed	25	26
Compaq Comp	52	54
Comp Ass Intl	25	25
Conagra	30	31
Cons Edison	32	33
Cons Nat Gas	44	44
Cons Rail	53	50
Cooper Inds	48	48
Corning Inc	37	37
Crown Cork	39	39
Dana Corp	47	47
Dayton Hudson	78	78
Deere	47	47
Delta Air Lines	50	51
Deluxe Corp	43	43
Detroit Edison	33	34
Digital Equip	41	41
Dillard Dept St	49	49
Disney (Walt)	45	45
Dominion Res	40	40
Donelley (RR)	29	29
Dover Corp	45	45
Dow Chemicals	52	53
Dow Jones	29	30
Dresser	17	17
Duke Power	36	36
Dun & Bradstreet	59	61
Du Pont	45	46
Eastman Kodak	49	50
Eaton Corp	77	78

Stock	Jan 28 midday	Jan 27 close
Emerson Elec	53	55
Engelhard Corp	35	37
Enron Corp	47	47
Enserch Corp	34	34
Ethyl Corp	20	20
Exxon	60	60
FMC Corp	46	46
FPL Group	36	36
Federal Express	50	50
Fed Nat Mtge	78	79
First Chicago	42	42
First Interstate	40	40
First Union Rky	10	10
Fleet Finl Grp	32	31
Fluor Corp	42	41
Ford Motor	47	45
GTE Corp	35	35
Gannett	53	54
Gap Inc Del	34	34
Gen Cinema	30	30
Gen Dynamics	114	115
Gen Electric	85	84
Gen Mills	67	67
Gen Motors	37	38
Gen Reinsurance	119	118
Gen Signal	63	63
Genuine Parts	35	35
Georgia Pac	59	59
Gillette	53	53
Glaxo ADR	20	20
Goodrich (BF)	49	48
Goodyear Tire	68	68
Grace (WR)	38	38
Grt Atl Pac Tea	24	24
Great Wstn Fin	18	18
Halliburton	28	28
Heinz (HJ)	41	41
Hercules	60	60
Hershey Foods	48	48
Hewlett Packard	71	71
Hilton Hotels	48	47
Home Depot	64	64
Homestake	10	10
Honeywell	33	33
Household Intl	63	63
Houston Inds	46	46
Humana	20	20
ITT Corp	71	72
Illinois Tool	67	67
INCO	22	22
Ingersoll Rand	33	33
Inland Steel	23	23
Intel Corp	109	112
IBM	50	49
Intl Flav & Fr	105	106
Intl Paper	64	64
James River Va	18	17
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	45	44
K Mart	23	23
Kellogg	62	61
Kerr-McGee	44	44
Kimberly-Clark	58	59
Knight-Ridder	61	63
Lilly (Eli)	57	58
Limited Inc	25	26
Lin Broadcstg	84	84
Lincoln Nat	77	71
Litton	46	46
Liz Claiborne	40	40
Lockheed Corp	55	[illegible]
Louisiana Pac	68	70
MCI Commun	40	40
Marriott	23	23
Marsh & McLen	92	91
Martin Marietta	70	70
Masco Corp	32	25
May Dept St	70	70
Maytag Corp	15	14
McCaw Cellular	30	30
McDonalds	48	47
McDonnell D	59	60
McGraw Hill	61	62
Mead Corp	37	38
Medtronic	89	91
Mellon Bk	50	50
Melville Corp	51	51
Merck Inc	40	40
Merrill Lynch	66	67
Minnesota Mine	97	97
Mobil Corp	62	63
Monsanto	53	53
Morgan (JP)	59	60
Motorola Inc	55	57
Natl Medical	10	10
Natl Semi	11	12
Natl Service Ind	26	26
Navistar Int	3	3
NBD Bancorp	32	32
NY Times A	29	29
Newmont Mng	37	37
Niag Mohawk	19	19
Nike B	81	80
NL Industries	4	4
Nordstrom	39	39
Norfolk Sthrn	61	60
Nthn States Pwr	43	43
Norwest Corp	45	45
Nynex Corp	83	83
Occidental Pet	18	18
Ohio Edison	23	22

Stock	Jan 28 midday	Jan 27 close
Oracle Systems	33	33
Oryx Energy Co	19	19
PNC Financial	30	30
PPG Industries	63	62
Paccar Inc	58	58
PacifiCorp	19	19
Pac Enterprises	20	19
Pac Gas & Elec	32	32
Pac Telesis	45	45
Pall Corp	20	19
Panhandle East	18	19
Paramount Comm	46	46
Parker Hannifin	32	32
Penney (JC)	73	73
Pennzoil	51	51
PepsiCo	42	42
Pfizer	68	69
Phelps Dodge	51	51
Philadel Elec	25	25
Philip Morris	76	77
Phillips Pet	26	26
Pitney Bowes	40	40
Polaroid	28	28
Price Co	36	36
Primerica	39	39
Procter & Gambl	50	49
Pub Serv E & G	32	31
Quaker Oats	65	64
Ralston Purina	49	49
Raychem Corp	38	38
Raytheon	52	52
Reebok Intl	37	36
Reynolds Metals	53	53
Roadway Srvcs	69	68
Rockwell Intl	28	29
Rohm & Haas	54	54
Royal Dutch	82	81
Rubbermaid	31	31
Safeco Corp	62	63
St Paul's Cos	78	78
Salomon Inc	36	36
Santa Fe S Pac	14	14
Sara Lee Corp	28	28
Scecorp	44	44
Schering Plough	59	59
Schlumberger	57	57
Scott Paper	38	38
Seagram	25	25
Sears Roebuck	48	49
Shell Trans	50	50
Sherwin Wllms	30	30
Skyline Corp	22	22
Snap-On-Tools	34	35
Southern Co	38	38
Sthwestern Bell	71	71
Sprint Corp	27	27
Stanley Works	40	41
Sun Company	29	30
[illegible]	43	43
Supervalu	34	34
Syntex Corp	20	20
Sysco Corp	25	25
TRW Inc	55	54
Tandem Comp	13	14
Tandy Corp	26	26
[illegible] Corp	3	3
Teledyne	19	19
Temple Inland	48	47
Tenneco	45	45
Texaco	60	59
Texas Inst	53	53
Texas Utilities	45	43
Textron	42	42
Time Warner	32	32
Times-Mirror	32	32
Timken	30	30
Torchmark	58	61
Toys R Us	39	39
Transamerica	50	49
Travelers Corp	28	27
Tribune	52	52
Tyco Labs	46	45
UAL Corp	122	125
UST Inc	30	31
USX Marathon	17	18
Unilever NV	107	107
Union Camp	44	44
Union Carbide	16	17
Union Pacific	58	56
Unisys Corp	12	12
USAir Group	14	14
USF&G Corp	13	13
US Life	40	39
US West	38	38
United Tech	46	46
Unocal Corp	25	25
Upjohn	29	30
VF Corp	53	54
Wal-Mart Stores	64	64
Warner-Lambert	65	64
Waste Mgmnt Inc	37	38
Wells Fargo	98	99
Westinghouse El	14	14
Weyerhaeuser	40	40
Whirlpool	46	47
Whitman	14	15
Winn Dixie	75	75
Woolworth	29	29
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	29	29
Xerox	82	82

RISES:

Berkeley Group	351p (+10p)
SKF 'B'	675p (+25p)
Takeda Chem	667p (+25p)
VSEL	555p (+15p)
Liberty Life	914p (+25p)
Steel Burrill	253p (+15p)
Hi-Tec Sports	74p (+11p)
ERF	200p (+30p)
Dolphin Pack	108p (+11p)
Gold Greenless	300p (+12p)
Sappi	412p (+31p)
Frogmore	310p (+11p)
Leeds	560p (+11p)

FALLS:

Guinness	462p (-11p)
SA Breweries	810p (-13p)
Carlton Comm	777p (-13p)
Euro Disney	800p (-15p)
Burmah Castrol	685p (-11p)
City Site Ests	13p (-11p)
Courtauld Text	555p (-16p)
BAT	975p (-12p)
Rothmans 'B'	612p (-16p)

Closing Prices Page 25

Foreign & Col PEP Inv Tst 106		+ ½
Intl Food Machinery (51)	61	...
Mauritius Fund (£10¼)	£10¼	...
OIS Intl Inspection (50)	62	+1
Prime People Warrants	1½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Property Trust p/p (25)	13	+1
Trio Holdings n/p (50)	24	-1
Wessex Water 480 (Nil)	71	...
West Trust n/p (3)	[illegible]	[illegible]

EC television subsidy may be abandoned

FROM REUTER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission will have to abandon its strategy for subsidising high-definition television if Britain does not lift its opposition soon, according to Martin Bangemann, the telecommunications commissioner.

Herr Bangemann, a senior member of the EC executive who took over the HDTV portfolio this month, said the plan is in danger of becoming obsolete because of technological developments.

He told a European Parliament committee: "Either we get the green light now or, if the embargo continues, with every passing day the support will lose its raison d'être." Britain has been blocking a plan to help broadcasters launch wide-screen and eventually cinema-quality HDTV services, partly because it is tied heavily to a European satellite transmission standard known as D2-MAC. Britain argues that D2-MAC could soon be overtaken by digital technologies being developed in America.

Philips Electronics and Thomson, both European electronics companies , have invested heavily in D2-MAC, a stepping stone to an HDTV standard known as HD-MAC.

Chrysler cautious despite acceleration

FROM AP IN MICHIGAN

CHRYSLER earned $356 million ($97 million) in the fourth quarter of 1992 and $723 million for the whole year. The quarterly earnings, of $1.12 per common share, were the best from the third-largest motor manufacturer in America since the second quarter of 1989.

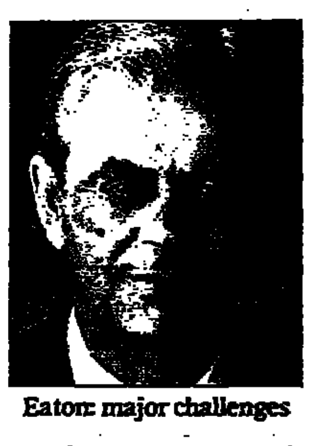
Sales advanced 24.3 per cent for the quarter to $10.2 billion ($8.2 billion). Sales for the year rose to $36.9 billion, up 25.5 per cent, from $29.4 billion in 1991.

The earnings figure for the quarter exceeded analysts' expections. A consensus of 14 analysts' estimates compiled by First Call, the Boston investors' service, predicted Chrysler would post earnings of $314.8 million, or 91 cents a share.

Earnings for the year amounted to $2.21 a share and contrasted with a loss of $795 million, or $3.28 a share, a year ago.

Chrysler said it would take a one-time $4.7 billion charge for an accounting change in the first quarter of this year.

Robert Eaton, the chairman, reported that the economic recovery in America "continues to be slow, and neither our balance sheet nor our credit rating are where we want them to be. So despite the gains achieved in 1992, we still have major challenges ahead of us for 1993." Chrysler, of which Robert Lutz is chief executive, increased its share of the North American car and truck market from 12.4 to 13.4 per cent last year.


Eaton: major challenges

Chrysler Financial Corp., the group's financing unit, earned $231 million, down from $276 million in 1991.

The 1992 profits included a one-time $51 million gain derived from adopting a new accounting standard for income taxes.

The division's fourth-quarter earnings were $26 million, down 31.5 per cent from the $38 million the group reported in 1991.

Chrysler Financial has been shrinking since the group started to sell non-automotive businesses. Its consumer finance unit was sold to NationsBank.

Ford and GM are expected to report operating losses for 1992 when their earnings statements are released in the middle of next month.

AT&T rings up a $1 bn record

FROM AP IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN Telephone & Telegraph reported a 58 per cent surge in fourth-quarter profits to a record $1 billion. Net income rose 18 per cent for the year. Gains in financial services and telecommunications units bolstered the company's performance.

America's largest long-distance communications company said profits totalled 75 cents a share in the three months to end-December, against $635 million, or 48 cents a share, a year ago.

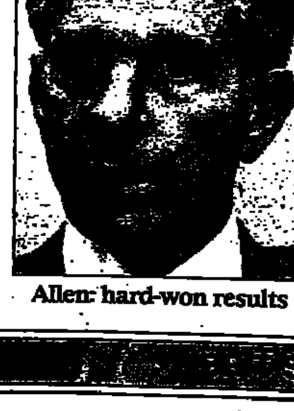
Revenue advanced 6.3 per cent to $17.5 billion, against $16.46 billion in the same quarter a year ago. "All parts of our business contributed to these hard-won results in a slow-growth economy," said Robert Allen, the chairman.

The company said long-distance telephone volume rose 5 per cent in the quarter, though revenue fell 0.7 per cent, in part because business customers sought out "lower-priced higher-capacity dedicated lines".

Revenue from the company's products — including cable operations and transmission systems, telephone systems for businesses and micro-electronic components — rose 20 per cent. The company reported record sales of its consumer products for the quarter. AT&T's Universal Card Services, which includes the widely held credit card, was profitable for the year and contributed "greatly" to the financial services unit's 37 per cent jump in revenue during the quarter.

For the full year, AT&T said net income totalled $3.81 billion, or $2.86 a share, up from $522 million, or 40 cents a share in 1991, when the company took a $4.5 billion charge to cover costs associated with a significant restructuring.

Exclusive of those charges, net income was $3.24 billion, or $2.51 a share, in 1991. Revenue for the year advanced 3 per cent to $64.9 billion from $63.09 billion a year earlier.


Allen: hard-won results

AMERICAN and European buying provided government securities with a new lease of life.

Medium and longer-dated issues were chased sharply higher as dealers tried to assess the extent of the overseas support. Last night some brokers thought the pound, at under the Dm2.40 level, was probably over the worst and that a period of consolidation was underway.

On the futures market, the March series of the long gilt had another active session with more than 40,000 contracts completed. It finished near its best of the day £13/16 better at £101 14/16. In the cash market Treasury 9 per cent 2012 jumped almost a full point to end at £102 9/32.

Conditions at the shorter end were more subdued. Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998 closed eight ticks better at £111 5/16.

1992/93 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gre red yld
		SHORTS (under 5 years)				
104	100	Treas 12¼% 1993	103	...	12.12	5.74
100	95	Fund 6% 1993	100	...	5.99	5.73
107	103	Treas 13¾% 1993	106	-	13.04	5.78
102	98	Treas 8½% 1994	102 xd	-	8.28	5.77
110	104	Treas 14½% 1994	109 xd	-	13.31	5.84
110	103	Exch 13½% 1994	108	-	12.79	5.90
105	98	Treas 10% 1994	105	-	9.50	5.85
110	103	Exch 12½% 1994	109 †	-	11.40	5.95
105	98	Treas 9% 1994	105	-	8.56	5.93
111	102	Treas 12% 1995	110	-	10.83	6.11
96	88	Gas 3% 1990-95	96	...	3.12	4.86
109	99	Exch 10¼% 1995	109	-	9.39	6.18
116	106	Treas 12¾% 1995	116	-	10.97	6.31
119	109	Treas 14% 1996	119	-	11.70	6.60
125	113	Treas 15¼% 1996	124	+	12.25	6.73
119	108	Exch 13¼% 1996	118	+	11.14	6.73
110	98	Conv 10% 1996	110	-	9.04	6.78
121	109	Treas 13¼% 1997	121	-	10.92	7.00
112	100	Exch 10½% 1997	112 †	...	9.32	6.88
107	94	Treas 8¾% 1997	107 †	-	8.16	6.87
131	117	Exch 15% 1997	130	+	11.46	7.18
111	97	Exch 9¾% 1998	111	+	8.76	7.01
		MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)				
101	98	Treas 7¼% 1998	101	...	7.14	6.88
99	86	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	99	+	6.76	6.78
137	123	Treas 15½% 1998	136	+	11.38	7.50
121	107	Exch 12% 1998	120	+	9.95	7.52
111	97	Treas 9½% 1999	110	+	8.60	7.29
123	109	Exch 12¼% 1999	122	+	10.03	7.06
116	101	Treas 10½% 1999	115	+	9.13	7.45
115	100	Conv 10¼% 1999	114	+	8.96	7.49
109	94	Conv 9% 2000	108 †	+	8.30	7.44
128	114	Treas 13% 2000	127	+	10.18	7.98
113	99	Treas 10% 2001	112 xd	+	8.88	7.83
128	115	Treas 14% 1998-01	127	+	10.98	7.58
111	98	Treas 9¾% 2002	111 †	+	8.78	8.06
25	21	Treas 8% 2003	25	+	8.00	7.97
113	100	Treas 10% 2003	112	+	8.91	8.23

1992/93 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gre red yld
120	107	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	119	+	9.64	8.17
69	59	Fund 3½% 1999-04	69	+	5.00	7.40
109	96	Conv 9½% 2004	108	+	8.78	8.38
109	96	Conv 9½% 2005	108	+	8.80	8.44
128	116	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127	+	9.86	8.39
97	85	Treas 8% 2002-06	96	+	8.29	8.44
122	110	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121	+	9.49	8.52
100	89	Treas 8½% 2007	99	+	8.55	8.36
135	123	Treas 13½% 2004-08	134	+	10.05	8.63
		LONGS (over 15 years)				
104	93	Treas 9% 2008	103	+	8.72	8.60
95	85	Treas 8% 2009	94	+	8.51	8.66
103	93	Conv 9% 2011	102	+	8.80	8.73
103	93	Treas 9% 2012	102 †	+	8.80	8.73
72	62	Treas 5½% 2008-12	71	+	7.40	8.57
92	81	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	91	+	8.49	8.68
130	118	Exch 12% 2013-17	128	+	9.36	8.69
101	91	Treas 8¾% 2017	99 †	+	8.96	8.82
		UNDATED				
49	36	Consols 4%	45 †	+	8.86	...
40	33	War Ln 3½%	39	+	8.87	...
63	39	Conv 3½%	61	+	5.68	...
29	24	Consols 2½%	29	+	8.48	...
29	24	Treas 2½%	28	+	8.81	...
		INDEX-LINKED				
133	122	Treas IL 2% 1994	133	+	[illegible]	[illegible]
197	176	Treas IL 2% 1996	199	+	[illegible]	[illegible]
108	100	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	108		[illegible]	[illegible]
163	139	Treas IL 2½% 2001	163		[illegible]	[illegible]
159	135	Treas IL 2½% 2003	159	+	[illegible]	[illegible]
109	101	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	108	+	[illegible]	[illegible]
162	137	Treas IL 2% 2006	162	+	[illegible]	[illegible]
147	124	Treas IL 2½% 2009	143	+	[illegible]	[illegible]
152	129	Treas IL 2½% 2011	143	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
126	108	Treas IL 2½% 2013	132 †		[illegible]	[illegible]
133	112	Treas IL 2½% 2016	134 xd	-	[illegible]	[illegible]
129	107	Treas IL 2½% 2020	133	-	[illegible]	[illegible]
106	88	Treas IL 2½% 2024	127	-	[illegible]	[illegible]
107	91	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	105	-	[illegible]	[illegible]

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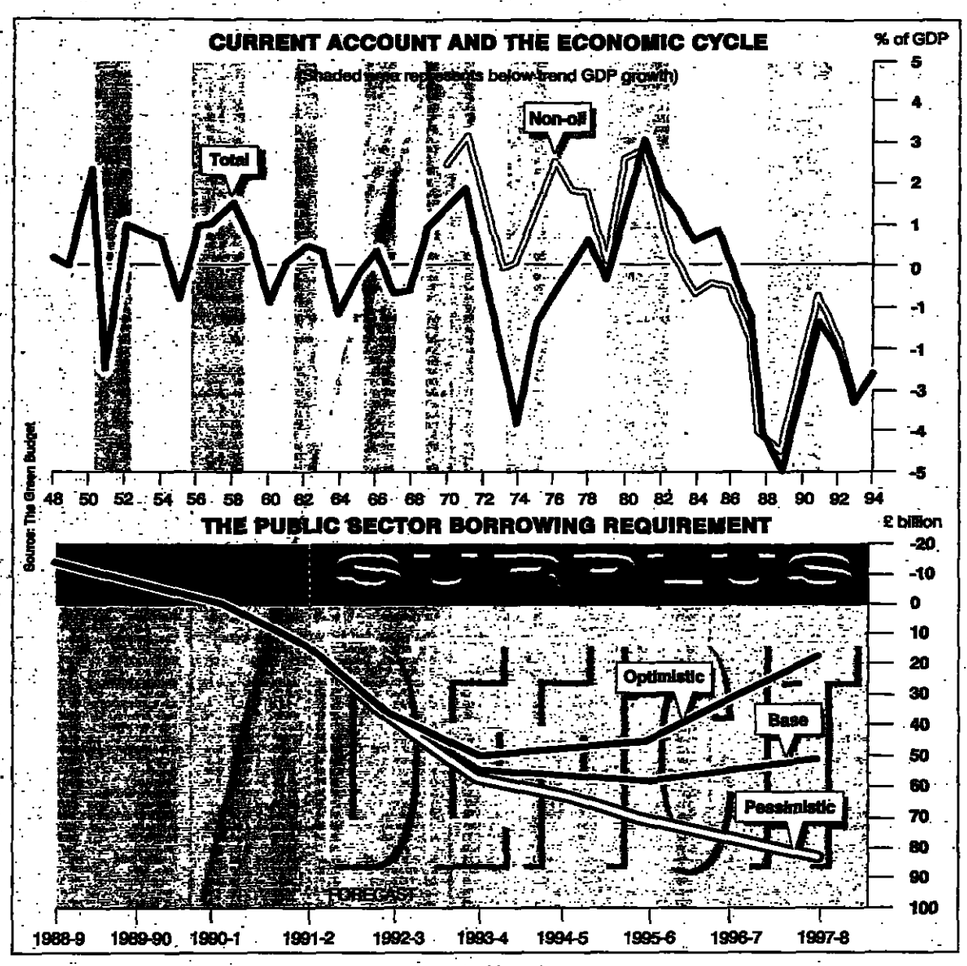
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Getting Britain's economy to grow faster than its debt

Janet Bush examines the tightrope the government must walk between continued stagnation and a public borrowing figure heading out of control



Twenty-four hours (or less this week) is a long time in economics. On Monday night, the financial markets had finally been persuaded that, ghastly economic figures notwithstanding, the Chancellor was prudently leaving interest rates unchanged, probably until the Budget on March 16. Futures markets were pricing in rates of slightly above 7 per cent. By the end of Tuesday, after the 1 per cent rate cut inspired in Downing Street, futures were discounting rates of slightly more than 5 per cent.

The government's latest move in its bid for growth was clearly designed for maximum shock value. For once, John Major's team — those who knew about the decision before it was announced — could be seen by recalcitrant backbenchers to be acting rather than reacting to urgings from the country. But it is debatable whether the strategy has worked.

Tuesday's move, for many, breathtakingly confirmed what the Treasury select committee complained about recently — the pick-and-mix nature of government policy-making after sterling's departure from the exchange-rate mechanism. Since late autumn, the government had repeatedly pointed to accelerated growth in M0 money supply as reason to be cautious about further easing of monetary policy. The same targeted indicator was dismissed this week on the grounds that it had not translated into higher retail sales.

Last week, the government dismissed worrying figures on sales and industrial production because they were historical. This week, it was exactly these features of the economy that were cited as reason to lower interest rates. As economists at Nikko Securities pointed out, "a *volte face* of startling proportions even by the Treasury's standards".

Since September, the government has been at great pains to emphasise a careful building block process of replacing the exchange-rate target with a range of other monetary indicators. The impression in the financial markets now is that sterling, not mentioned as an issue on Tuesday, is expendable and that the government will pick and choose which ever indicator suits the political climate of the day.

Although the cut was regarded as urgently needed by most in the City, and all seven of the independent panel of economic forecasters, there is still a queasy feeling that the normal processes of policy-making are being bypassed. "There is a strange irony in the rate cut this week," commented Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, which the same day put out its joint budget submission with Goldman Sachs, the "green budget". "The cut was supposed primarily to boost confidence but a lot of that confidence has been dissipated because people are even more confused about policy than they were."

The next big question mark is what the Chancellor is planning to do in his Budget. The report, whose authors include Mr Dilnot and Gavyn Davies, of Goldman Sachs, one of the Treasury's seven wise men, underlined that Mr Major has no choice but go for growth as the only way of avoiding a financial crisis of IMF proportions.

The report forecasts the public sector borrowing requirement using different growth rates. Its middle or base projection assumes annual growth of 3 per cent from next year. Its optimistic scenario has growth of 3.5 per cent and its pessimistic growth is 1.5 per cent.

The implications are startling. Even if the government secures growth of 3 per cent a year for the next few years, the PSBR will remain above £50 billion. The green budget expects the PSBR in fiscal 1993-4 to be £54 billion, way above the government's £44 billion Autumn Statement projection. If growth were to remain at the level expected this year, around 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent, the PSBR would be above £80 billion by fiscal 1997-8.

The deeply worrying part of Britain's public deficit problem is that — as the prime minister recently conceded — it is not just a function of falling revenues due to the longest recession since the war. There is now, since the 1980s, also a structural element in the deficit, created out of the great economic myth of a Thatcherite miracle.

As Mr Dilnot points out, tax cuts and spending increases were undertaken in the late-1980s on the basis that the sustainable growth rate of the economy had been increased by Conservative supply side policies. The Treasury believed then that Britain could grow steadily by 2.75 per cent a year without incurring either higher inflation or current account problems. "We have now gone back to thinking that that Britain can only grow sustainably at around 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent a year because there was no Thatcher miracle," Mr Dilnot said.

This leaves the government with a seemingly insoluble problem. Not only must the Treasury boost growth but it must also raise taxes or cut spending to reverse the the mistaken policies of the 1980s. The green budget offers slow and fast routes back to fiscal stability.

The slow route, assuming a gradual reduction in the deficit and rather more modest tax increases, appears too dangerous. While the PSBR could be brought down to around 3 per cent of GDP, the level needed to comply with the Maastricht treaty, by the end of the century, the government's total debt ratio would rise to more than 70 per cent of GDP at the same time.

The fast route would prevent the debt ratio reaching unacceptable levels and bring the PSBR down but would involve huge tax increases, perhaps 3.5 per cent of GDP by 1997-8. On balance, the IFS and Goldman Sachs prefer the fast track to fiscal balance with the pain taken early — but not quite yet.

Even with the latest base rate cut, the risk associated with large tax rises in March is probably too great. Tax rises to cut the deficit would be dangerously counter-productive if growth were to suffer as a result. The less risky strategy, with signs of recovery still extremely tentative, could be a marked fiscal tightening in December.

Tuesday's rate cut suggests that the government's sole priority is to secure a recognisable recovery and defer thinking about the risks. One is inflation, which the government thinks, probably rightly, isn't the current battle. Even David Currie, one of the most cautious wise men, believes there isn't an inflation risk for a year or so.

The second is the current account of the balance of payments. To avoid a crisis, Britain probably has to restrain growth to 2 per cent a year, far too low to bring down the PSBR. But here, at least, there is a bright light in the government's stormy economic firmament. Until June or July, the Treasury will not have a balance of payments constraint — the switch to the single market means there will not be enough statistics on which to base one.

Asda jumps the queue

GIVEN the growing pressure on institutional funds, Asda is wise to scramble to the front of the rights issue queue, even though it will not need the money for more than a year.

Asda's shares have almost trebled in five months and it would have been churlish not to take advantage of the stock market's enthusiasm. Had the company waited until summer to launch a rights issue, the fund managers' cupboards may well have been bare.

The stores group is, however, forced to continue living with interest rate problems that will cost around £11 million a year. Asda is still borrowing more than £300 million on various capital notes with coupons of more than 9 per cent that can only be repaid with severe penalty. The rights money will earn less than 6 per cent which will contribute towards dilution of around 6 per cent in the next financial year to give earnings per share of perhaps 4.4p and an ambitious ex-rights prospective p/e ratio of almost 15. Asda unquestionably needed another substantial capital injection before long. Without it the group would have been forced to close up to ten badly-sited stores a year and did not have the funds to replace them. There is an unfortunate symmetry between the £704 million Asda has raised from its last two rights issues, and the £704 million it paid for 60 Gateway superstores in 1989. At least the group is rid of the after effects of that disaster.

The money will pay for up to ten new stores and 15 relocations, with capital spending likely to peak at more than £300 million in 1995. The new stores will help to improve sales and net margins but Asda has a long way to go. Sales per square foot are still only £10 per week, against £19 at J Sainsbury.

Archie Norman's achievement in rescuing Asda cannot be overstated but the City is backing a recovery stock, not a market leader.

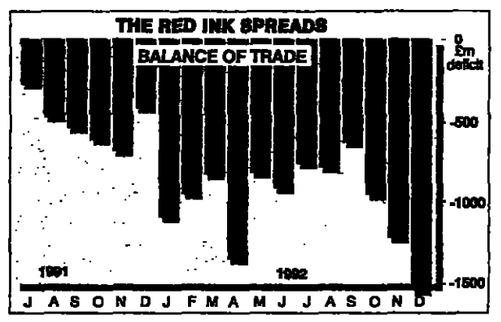
Trade

THE sharp rise in the December trade deficit confirmed the City's worst forecasts and suggests that the road to economic health will be a long one.

The £1.5 billion visible deficit could not have come at a worse time for the Treasury. The markets will now fret about the size of the shortfall without any hard evidence until July, although by the end of the year the deficit could well be £18 billion.

The increase in the value of imports, to a record £10.9 billion last month, may have been fanned by the pound's devaluation after Black Wednesday. But a deficit of this magnitude, at a stage in the cycle when the country should be running a modest surplus, speaks volumes about the damage the recession has wreaked on Britain's ability to create wealth. It suggests that the country will have to undergo a structural adjustment before real growth is underway. In the eighties, consumer spending was the driving force behind growth. Now Britain's manufacturing sector must lead the way with exports, and import substitution.

In the short term, however, imports are threatening to flood in as consumer confidence returns. This, coupled with likely further interest rate cuts, means the outlook for sterling is negative.



Stakis

TWO years ago few people would have given two pins for Stakis' future. The company was weighed down with debts of more than £200 million while many of its lenders were minded to push it into receivership to recover their money quickly.

Yesterday's reorganisation takes Stakis off the critical list after a long and valiant fight by Sir Lewis Robertson, the chairman. The £50 million disposal of Ashbourne Homes and the £28 million rights issue will reduce debts to less than £120 million. Just as importantly, the lending syndicate has been reduced from from 21 banks to nine, which are all committed to the group's future.

Admittedly Stakis has been restored to shaky convalescence rather than rude health. The interest cover in the current year will still be less than two times, and while stated gearing is 42 per cent that will rise to more like 55 per cent when the hotels are revalued in September.

The group though has two businesses that are generating cash even in a recession and has few capital spending commitments. Yesterday's 4p rise in the shares to 45p reflects the City's relief that at least one casualty has been avoided.

MFI

TRY as it might, MFI will not be able to improve its figures until an economic recovery begins. Consumers will steadfastly refuse to pay £500 or more for a fitted kitchen or bedroom until they feel more secure about their jobs.

A sharp downturn in business following Black Wednesday did not help the interim figures. More worryingly, sales in the critical January period are also lower than last year. The traditional sale bonanza after Christmas usually contributes 30 per cent of annual turnover.

There are some avenues for growth, even without an upturn. Sales per square foot have risen 12 per cent in MFI's 55 refurbished stores. Further reductions in the cost base, particularly in systems and space utilisation, are possible. Expansion in the £1 billion upholstery market, which currently accounts for less than 5 per cent of MFI sales, is planned.

This is all interesting stuff, but it is just tinkering at the edges. Despite the management's best efforts, real growth is dependent on economic revival. And there is no sign of that yet. Patience will have its reward — a small rise in sales will have a big impact on the bottom line.

Lasmo

THE sudden departure of Chris Greentree as chief executive of Lasmo has uncomfortable echoes of Bob Horton's untimely exit from BP last June, swiftly followed by a dividend cut. The City now expects Lasmo to halve its final dividend, which would be a prudent move. Gearing is close to 80 per cent and unless higher oil prices come to its rescue, the company would be wiser to spend its money reducing debt.

The appointment of Mr Darby is likely to be well received. But the share price will remain jittery until the fate of the dividend is known.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Wheeler's job bluff called

STEPHEN Wheeler, previously chief investment manager for UK equities at Friends Provident where he had responsibility for more than £3 billion, has finally had his bluff called. Wheeler, a renowned maverick, sent a lengthy letter to Graham Ashley, head of the institutional department at Greig Middleton, the broker, claiming that he could transform the firm's research department. "He said he could really make it hum," says Brian Tora, one of Ashley's colleagues. The letter, against all the odds, hit the right note and Wheeler, 40, began his new job this week. Ashley, who has described Wheeler as "an original thinker, holding views that are often considered controversial", will continue as the department's number one. He says: "Our reputation for research is growing, and it has been clear for some time that a full-time head of research was needed." That growing reputation for research was further fuelled two weeks ago by the recruitment of Barry Dravers from BZW to cover international drink companies. Dravers, who had switched from sales to corporate finance at BZW, has returned to being a specialist salesman at Greig Middleton.

Heseltine watch

MICHAEL Heseltine will be watching more anxiously than most the response to this morning's publication of the much-leaked report on the future of the British coal market from the all-party Commons' trade and industry committee. The trade secretary, whose own political future rides on the outcome of the coal enquiries, got an advance taste of the reaction yesterday at a glittering gathering of the industrial great and the good. Howard Davies, the Confederation of British Industry's director-general, prompted gales of laughter from his audience in Westminster's swish QE2 conference centre when he insisted that the joint CBI and DTI initiative to promote innovation in industry was not about the DTI trying to pick winners. "As the little local difficulty" with the coal industry had proved, "the DTI even finds it difficult to pick losers," he said. But Heseltine, who had slipped over the road to the Commons for yet another Maastricht vote, missed Davies' concluding line: "That's the end of a beautiful relationship with the DTI."



Golden words

PETER Miller, head of mining research at Canadian brokers Yorkton Securities, is not one to let time pass him by. Instead of gazing out of windows on the daily train journey to and from work, he has spent the idle hours writing his first novel, *Goldscan*. The storyline may yet turn out to be nearer the truth than fiction — gold production falls in Africa, central banks accept the folly of being hooked on the dollar, world debt leads to the *de facto* remonetisation of gold, and the world price soars. Average price in the year 2005 is $3,000 an ounce! A useful glossary helps the novice with strange mining terms, and there is much fun to be had in identifying the mining houses and personalities on which *Goldscan* might be based. Miller, still train travelling, is now into his second and third books. The gold price, and Miller, should go far.

NEGOTIATING safety insurance for the workplace is not usually uppermost in the minds of City analysts when they sign an employment contract. But one media analyst at James Capel learnt to his cost that trading floors can be as dangerous as building sites. Guy Lamming was pinned to the floor last week by a large cabinet as he discussed share tips on the telephone. "I'd left the bottom drawer open and the top one came open in sympathy, which toppled it over," he explained. "None of my colleagues came to my assistance, they just stood around laughing like hyenas." Eventually Lamming was set free and retired to hospital for a check-up, "in case I needed to sue anybody".

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Less for lending money to the banks

From M. J. Lawrence

Sir, All the fuss about rate cuts, and the banks passing on such cuts to the customer, seems to have obscured one aspect that prevails in all the other markets on which my firm advises.

When interest rates generally decline, so do spreads. So with 15 per cent base rates, for example, a 5 per cent spread between investor (paid 12½ per cent) and borrower (pays 17½ per cent) is a 33 per cent margin. With base rates at 6 per cent, the same margin implies a 2 per cent spread between investor and borrower. A maintained spread is now an 83 per cent margin.

This can also be viewed from the perspective of my father-in-law who, at the higher rates, was receiving 2½ times the banks' return on money lent, and, at the lower rates, his multiplier should be the same. However a glance at the banks' notices to customers shows that his multiplier is now about 0.6 times. Whose money is it? Why should investors receive less for lending money to the banks than the banks make themselves? Ultimately any credit risks that the banks take fall on investors as much as shareholders.

On another subject, it is delightful to read that the gilt market still employs people who believe that it is run entirely so that they can make money without risk. Stating that rates should not have been cut until after the market had covered shorts and were long seems a parochial view when the losers would be the taxpayers, paying the higher rate on such timing. It is a pity the source was not named — such stupidity deserves to be taken advantage of.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. LAWRENCE,
Managing Director,
Euromarkets Advice & Research Service Ltd.,
Church House,
Tregynon,
Powys.

Bank charges for vintage share certificates

From Mr John Hamilton

Sir, Like Mr Noble who (Business Letters, January 21), reported on the receipt of the letter from Barclays, I too have received a similar letter from Barclays, again quoting a quarterly charge of £5.87, inclusive of VAT.

I inherited the trusteeship of an estate and was unaware of any trust documents lodged with the bank. I wrote to Barclays and asked for an explanation.

In reply, the bank sent me three batches of share certificates: firstly, five share certificates of one company issued on June 25, 1914; secondly, three certificates of a second company issued on July 6, 1920; and thirdly, a gem was six certificates of a 4½% bond loan of 1909 of a Russian railway, bearing Inland Revenue impressed stamps dated April 10, 1910.

I can certainly, therefore, vouch for the efficiency of the safe custody facilities and wonder what other gems may have lain undisturbed for many a year and are now about to become nice little earners for banks.

However, Barclays ended their letter to me: "We believe these are valueless." £5.87 per quarter — for what?

Yours faithfully,
J. R. HAMILTON,
Chartered accountant and registered auditor,
42 Upper Berkeley Street,
W1.

Go East for help

From Mr C. W. Davis

Sir, In the mid-Sixties, a USA industrialist in Mexico City (one of my clients) telephoned the US embassy in Mexico City to inquire about USA manufacturers of machines that make screws. He was advised to come to the embassy library in Mexico City and to look it up in the *Thomas Register*, a comprehensive listing of US manufacturers.

Upset, he telephoned the Japanese and German embassies. That afternoon, each of these countries sent out teams of manufacturers' representatives with brochures in Spanish and English, and experts on financing any purchase.

Way to go!

CHARLES W. DAVIS,
40 Saffrons Road,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex.

Income blow to sales

From R.A. Harrison

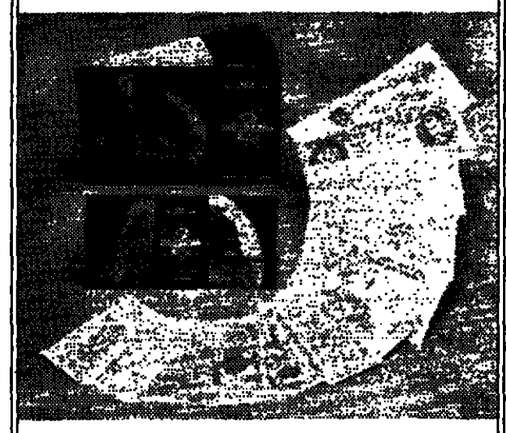
Sir, Beside the pessimistic article "Fall in sales hits recovery hopes" (January 21) you draw a graph which shows that retail sales have been on an upward trend since the middle of 1991 and in fact were at an all-time high at the end of 1992. Yes, there has been a small downturn since, but hardly a significant one.

If retail is not doing so well as it might, someone ought to remember that one in four of the population is over 60. These people rely on investment income, which has halved over the past two years. If you halve the income of 25 per cent of the population, is it any wonder retail spending is taking a knock? If you want spending to increase, put interest rates up.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. HARRISON,
3 Prior Croft Close,
Camberley, Surrey.

FREE BANKNOTES

START YOUR CURRENCY COLLECTION WITH THE TIMES



This week *The Times* has joined forces with *The Sunday Times* to introduce you to notaphily, the fascinating hobby of collecting paper money.

In the last two years, 20 new eastern European nations have emerged and with them a host of new banknotes.

To mark this changing face of eastern Europe, *The Times* is giving away two free banknotes: an historic twenty-dinar note from the former republic of Yugoslavia and a fifty-dinar note from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In addition readers are invited to take advantage of *The Sunday Times* Second International Currency Collection. Save £1 off a special presentation wallet (pictured above), containing twelve banknotes from the former Eastern bloc countries and the USSR (normally £6.95), and receive a free sixteen page banknote album.



To obtain your two free banknotes, simply collect eight different tokens from those printed in *The Times* until Friday February 5. Token 5 appears here. Or, collect all ten tokens to receive these notes and a free Sunday Times International Currency Collection Album, and the opportunity to purchase the presentation wallet for only £5.95. Full details will appear next week.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL
0345 717373

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Mastertrust	104.70	111.90	+0.10	1.68
International	75.98	80.82	+0.05	1.26
Dividend Gth	54.89	58.38†	+0.09	5.14
Global Gth Sec	58.91	62.66	+0.17	3.18
Ethical Growth	62.54	66.53	+0.01	2.90
High Inc Equity	145.40	154.60†	+0.10	5.50
Worldwide Bond	255.90	271.20	+0.50	4.61
Gilts Fixed Int	128.50	136.20†		6.98

ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ. 0224 633070.
Dealing: 0800 833580
30 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ. 071 374 6801

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Amer Inc Gth	41.83	44.16	-0.01	1.92
European	74.42	78.41	+0.01	...
European Inc	75.17	79.73	-0.17	1.68
Exempt	884.30	911.20†	-2.40	3.36
Extra Inc	40.89	44.46†	-0.13	5.66
F East Emerg Ec	73.38	78.89	-0.17	0.81

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL. 0793 514514.
Dealing: 0793 610366

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
High Inc	364.10	389.20	-0.30	4.39
Equity Inc	200.50	214.30†	-0.50	4.91
High Yield	224.50	239.90	-0.40	4.33
Balanced	613.30	655.60	-1.40	2.88
American Inc	45.05	48.15†	-0.08	3.53
Wld Asset Val	35.52	37.97	+0.09	2.03
Japan	132.00	140.40†	-2.50	0.01
Secs of Am	409.40	435.80	-0.10	0.36

AXA EQUITY & LAW
St George's Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1QD. 0203 553231

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
UK Growth Acc	303.00	322.40	-1.30	3.05
-do- Inc	217.20	231.10	-0.90	3.05
Higher Inc Acc	535.80	570.00	-2.40	4.30
-do- Inc	330.50	351.70	-1.30	4.30
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	170.40	179.90	-0.30	6.69
-do- Inc	91.79	96.94	-0.22	6.69
Nth America	262.50	279.30	-3.40	...
Far East	238.00	253.20	+3.10	0.28
Europe	204.00	217.10	+1.30	1.16
General Inc	407.60	433.70	-1.40	2.71
-do- Acc	443.90	472.30	-1.50	2.71
Brit Excell	61.88	65.83	-0.34	3.14
Brit Fndmnls Inc	63.15	67.18	-0.26	5.28
Brit Fndmnls Acc	80.45	85.59	-0.33	5.28
Global Opps	66.02	70.24	-0.02	0.05

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
Gredley Hse, 1-11 Broadway, London E15. 081 534 5544

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Capital	105.20	112.60	-0.40	3.31
Euro Gth Inc	106.40	112.70	-0.30	1.29
Extra Inc	101.00	108.00	+0.10	5.56
General	232.40	248.60	-0.50	3.48
Gilt Fxd Inc	56.88	58.85	+0.03	8.83
Income	451.00	482.30†	-1.00	5.03

BARING FUND MANAGERS
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ. 081 658 9002

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Gth	91.35	97.02	-0.79	0.10
Amer Smlr Cos	121.60	129.90	-2.00	...
Australia	...	...	...	...
Convertibles	50.20	53.68†	+0.09	7.60
Eastern	165.30	175.00	-3.20	1.70
Equity Income	75.07	79.86	+0.14	6.70
European Gth	211.10	224.50	-0.70	1.60
Euro Smllr Cos	145.00	155.00	+0.70	2.00
Exempt	79.02	81.22†	...	3.90
German Growth	51.48	54.94	+0.29	0.80
Global Growth	102.30	109.30	-0.30	...
Japan Growth	147.30	158.00	+3.10	...
Japan Sunrise	124.30	132.70	+2.30	...
Portfolio	111.90	119.80	-0.20	3.40
-do- Acc	197.80	211.80	-0.40	3.40
UK Growth	72.70	77.34	-0.51	3.20
UK Smaller Cos	72.78	77.83	+0.03	2.00
Select Managers	59.90	64.14	-0.17	2.10

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MANAGERS LTD
190 West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA. 041 332 3132

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Balan Gth Acc	98.51	105.43	-0.29	2.39
-do- Inc	91.14	97.48	-0.27	2.39
Global Bond	28.23	29.95†	+0.05	5.78
High Yield Acc	49.66	53.12	-0.13	4.52
-do- Inc	36.40	38.93†	-0.09	4.52
Smlr Cos Acc	79.91	85.47	+1.29	1.81
-do- Inc	73.90	79.04	+1.19	1.81
Amer Gth Acc	55.36	59.21	-0.10	0.29
-do- Inc	54.33	58.10	-0.10	0.29
Euro Gth Acc	91.16	97.50	...	1.78
-do- Inc	90.55	96.84	+0.34	1.78
Mngd P folio	32.48	34.74	+0.10	1.54
Pacific Growth	81.59	87.13	+0.94	1.17
Intl Spec Opps	79.62	85.16	+0.74	1.09

BROWN SHIPLEY
9/17 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath. 0444 458144

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Financial	107.00	114.00	-0.60	3.90
Smaller Cos Acc	249.50	265.70	-0.40	...
Smaller Cos Inc	146.10	155.60	-0.30	1.48
High Inc	70.50	75.44	-0.16	7.31
Income	121.00	129.50	+0.30	4.48
Mngd P folio Inc	87.47	93.16	-0.24	2.23
-do- Acc	163.80	174.40	-0.50	...
North American	106.30	113.20†	-0.50	0.19
Orient	93.68	100.80	-1.65	...
Recovery	34.39	36.47	+0.03	3.19
German	38.86	41.67	-0.11	0.10
Intl Growth	31.99	34.07	...	0.23
European Inc	21.51	23.16	-0.06	0.49
Conv General	19.82	20.14†	...	8.28

BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT
Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ. 071 247 4542.
Dealing: 071 247 7474

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Fellowship Tst	60.69	64.57	-0.27	1.46
-do- Acc	67.68	72.00	-0.30	1.46
Income Fund 5	203.60	216.70	-0.20	4.13
-do- Acc	463.00	492.60	-0.50	4.13
Inv Portfolio	65.06	67.42	-0.23	2.33
-do- Acc	72.87	75.52	-0.26	2.33
Smaller Cos	109.60	116.70†	+1.00	2.37
-do- Acc	131.60	140.10	+1.20	2.37
High Inc P folio	57.26	59.34	-0.22	4.95

BURRAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL. 071 480 7210

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Sht Gilt Fxd Int	68.88	69.80	-0.03	5.96

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH. 061 837 5060

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Environ	130.70	139.10†	-0.10	1.79
UK Growth	140.80	149.30	-0.60	2.46
UK Income	119.20	126.90	-0.20	4.68

CANNON FUND MANAGERS
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8876

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
SE Asia	73.77	78.90	-0.48	1.18
Growth	43.57	46.35†	-0.12	3.09
Income	50.88	54.13†	-0.14	4.40
Far East	38.69	41.38	+0.43	0.36
North American	83.28	89.07	-1.41	0.01
Global	78.81	84.29	-0.53	0.67
European	62.67	67.03	-0.48	1.39
Japan	81.15	86.79	+1.89	0.01
Intl Currency Bd	56.29	59.65	+0.29	7.45
UK Cap Gwth	75.73	81.00	+0.01	2.36

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF.
Enquiries: 061 236 5685. Dealing: 061 236 5362

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Capability Trusts				
American Gen	127.50	135.70	-0.30	0.11
-do- Acc	135.50	144.20	-0.40	0.11
European	63.10	66.88	-0.30	1.06
-do- Acc	65.40	69.32	-0.31	1.06
Far East Gen	45.40	48.30	+0.78	...
-do- Acc	45.40	48.30	+0.78	...
Glenfriars	229.10	243.80	+0.80	1.56
-do- Acc	257.30	273.80	+0.90	1.56
Growth	365.60	391.00	-0.80	2.59
-do- Acc	621.60	665.00	-1.10	2.59
Income Growth	352.30	374.70†	-4.30	4.21
-do- Acc	467.80	497.70	-5.80	4.21
Master Portfolio	9045.0	9348.0†	-20.00	3.10
-do- Acc	10435.0	10785.0	-22.00	3.10
Special Sits	82.71	87.99†	-0.83	2.57
-do- Acc	96.80	102.98	-0.98	2.57
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	1144.0	1180.0	-5.00	4.76
-do- Acc	1325.0	1366.0	-6.00	4.76

CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU. 071 955 5050. Dealing: 071 955 5055

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Index	187.80	199.90	-0.90	1.82
Capital	511.60	545.90	-2.40	2.57
Eurotrack 100	123.40	131.30	-0.10	1.82
Euro Gth	75.49	80.41†	-0.10	1.95
Far East Growth	73.67	78.62†	+0.83	0.54
Global Bond	22.36	23.56†	+0.05	6.74
Hong Kong	64.93	69.29	-1.21	0.72
Income	485.10	517.70	-2.10	4.41
Intl Growth	67.64	72.18	+0.36	1.20
Japan Growth	192.20	205.10	+5.50	...
Japan Smllr Cos	24.26	25.89	+0.44	...
Japan Index	57.41	61.26	+1.77	0.33
Nth American	408.20	435.60	-3.10	1.03
S pore Mly Gth	46.31	49.42	+0.15	...
The Footsie Fd	104.70	110.50†	-0.60	2.98
Tiger Index	128.00	136.50	-1.00	1.04
Trinde Index	96.89	103.40	+0.20	3.10
UK Index	118.10	126.00†	-0.60	3.42

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH. 071 606 0708

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American P folio	80.17	85.36	-0.13	1.00
European P folio	67.62	71.83	-0.11	1.38
Japanese P folio	46.20	49.09	+0.85	...
Pacific P folio	82.50	88.71	...	2.43
Cazenove P folio	65.97	70.58†	+0.06	3.00
UK Income Gth	60.32	64.57	+0.06	5.00

CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND
2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Investment Fd	582.50	586.60	...	3.08
Fixed Int	151.95	152.70	...	9.50
Deposit	6.80	...	...	...

CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND
2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Income	573.11	578.9b	...	5.16
-do- Acc	2209.5	2215.6	...	...
Deposit	6.70	...	...	...
Fxd Int Inc	124.00	124.28	...	9.33
-do- Acc	159.85	160.17	...	...

CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge, SE1. 071 407 5966

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
City Fin Assets	59.11	62.06	-1.37	2.22
Beckman Intl	76.80	81.97	+1.58	4.93
Friars Hse Inc	169.43	181.29†	+2.84	6.79
Friars Hse Cap	236.15	252.66	-0.27	3.06

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR9 2AQ. Enquiries: 081 681 2222.
Dealing: 081 686 9818

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Gth	104.83	111.52	-0.06	0.18
European Gth	87.31	92.88	-0.56	1.59
Far East Gth	87.02	92.57	+0.20	0.13
Japan Gth Acc	31.32	33.32	+0.73	...
Managed	58.20	61.91	-0.13	3.21
-do- Acc	70.29	74.78	-0.15	3.21
Mthly Inc Plus	46.04	48.98	-0.02	8.66
Smaller Cos	31.48	33.49	+0.33	2.42
-do- Acc	34.65	36.86	+0.37	2.42
UK General	66.07	70.29†	-0.41	3.08
-do- Acc	79.21	84.27	-0.50	3.08
Wwide Bd	61.69	65.63	+0.18	5.94
-do- Acc	77.31	82.24	+0.22	5.94
Wwide Sp Sits	49.94	53.41†	+0.16	0.25
-do- Acc	51.91	55.52	+0.16	0.25
Quilter General	120.16	127.83	-0.53	2.46
-do- Acc	132.27	140.71	-0.58	2.46
Quilter Income	88.11	93.73†	-0.31	4.19
-do- Acc	108.57	115.50	-0.39	4.19
Quilter Intl	115.55	122.93	+0.14	0.33
-do- Acc	117.15	124.63	+0.15	0.33
Quilter UK Spec	67.29	71.59	+0.06	3.09
-do- Acc	89.02	94.70	+0.06	3.09
CU Prestige Fund Management				
Fin Property	94.29	100.31	-0.31	2.11
Fixed Conv	39.67	42.20	-0.34	8.29
-do- Acc	101.73	108.22	-0.87	8.29
Equity Inc	137.47	146.24	-1.99	4.33
-do- Acc	433.96	461.66	-6.27	4.33
High Yield	111.84	118.98†	-0.40	5.41
-do- Acc	418.59	445.31	-1.50	5.41
Preference	45.47	48.37†	+0.88	8.31
-do- Acc	230.01	244.69	+4.46	8.31
PPT Europe	139.21	148.10	-0.97	0.69
PPT Global Bnd	79.38	84.45	+0.27	4.15
PPT Gold Com	43.82	46.62	+0.07	...
PPT Thai	54.03	57.48	-0.57	...
PPT Hong Kong	85.93	91.40	-2.75	...
PPT Japan	86.08	91.57	+2.34	...
PPT N Amer	143.89	153.08	-0.66	...
PPT S'pore Mly	92.59	98.50	+0.45	...
PPT UK	112.00	119.15	-0.74	1.96
PPT Cash	90.78	90.78	+0.02	6.31

EAGLE STAR UNIT MANAGERS
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ. 0242 577 555

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Oriental Op Acc	68.27	72.63	-0.70	1.09
Japanese Acc	44.33	47.16	+0.94	...
UK Balncd Inc	120.70	128.40†	-0.60	2.49
-do- Acc	140.80	149.80†	-0.80	2.49
UK Growth Acc	199.80	212.50	-0.80	2.27
UK High Inc	151.50	161.20	-0.50	6.96
-do- Acc	163.80	174.20	-0.50	6.96
N America Acc	110.90	118.00	-0.60	0.33
European Acc	140.80	149.80	-0.40	0.47
UK Pref F/I Inc	59.94	63.62†	+0.15	9.65
-do- Acc	95.46	101.30†	+0.20	9.65
Intl Sp Sits Acc	43.03	45.78	-0.30	0.25
Environmntl Opp	69.47	73.90	+0.01	1.50

EDINBURGH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD. 031 313 1000

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American	104.30	110.70	-0.40	...
UK Smlr Cos	170.20	180.80	-0.70	1.38
Eurofund	35.57	37.60†	-0.10	1.06
Mngd Exempt	157.70	164.40	+1.40	3.19
Growth Inc	209.40	222.50	-1.60	4.04
High Dist	133.10	141.40	-0.40	6.12
International	301.40	320.20	+0.10	1.01
Intl Income	76.34	81.49†	-0.22	3.19
Pacific	51.46	54.68	-0.12	0.55
Smllr Jap Cos	49.96	53.13†	+0.41	...
Tokyo	151.50	161.10	+4.10	...
Japan Exempt	83.40	85.60	+1.38	0.52
Sm Jap Exempt	410.70	422.00	+3.10	0.12

ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT
41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU. 071 373 7261

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Endurance	161.10	171.30	+4.80	1.22

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 7QW. 0296 431480

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Pelican	101.60	106.95	-0.12	3.77
High Income	115.97	122.07	-0.16	5.17
Tst of Inv Tsts	132.46	139.43	-0.24	2.62
Special Sits	81.64	85.94	+0.18	3.48
North American	104.71	110.22	-0.68	1.18
Far Eastern	194.66	204.90	+0.87	1.63
Intl Growth	85.62	90.13	+0.09	1.63
European	59.81	62.96	-0.31	2.22
Smaller Cos	66.50	70.00	+0.50	2.49

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
America	213.60	225.30	-1.60	..
Cash Unit Tst	100.00	100.00†	...	6.70
European Tst	103.30	109.90	+0.10	..

FOREIGN & COLONIAL
8th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
European	86.69	91.77	-0.25	0.71
Far Eastern	106.50	114.30	-1.00	...
Overs Income	82.56	88.40†	-0.35	2.83
UK Growth	89.67	95.93†	+0.31	1.39
UK Income	98.74	105.60	-0.30	4.01
US Smaller Cos	217.10	232.20	+0.30	...

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT. 071 374 4100

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Am Smllr Co	416.20	445.00	-4.40	...
-do- Acc	425.20	454.70	-4.50	...
Capital	275.70	293.20	+1.80	2.38
-do- Acc	380.50	404.70	+2.50	2.38
Cond Smllr Cos	38.36	40.77	-0.08	1.37
-do- Acc	44.86	48.39	-0.08	1.37
Convertible	104.00	110.60†	+0.60	6.46
-do- Acc	192.50	204.70†	+0.90	6.46
European	91.93	98.39	-0.28	0.91
-do- Acc	94.99	101.70	-0.30	0.91
Extra Income	271.60	288.90†	+0.40	4.70
-do- Acc	380.30	404.50†	+0.40	4.70
Financial	99.40	105.80	-0.20	0.78
-do- Acc	103.40	111.10	-0.20	0.78
Health Fund Inc	126.10	134.70	-1.80	...
-do- Acc	126.10	134.70	-1.80	...
Income Tst	169.10	179.80	+0.30	4.45
-do- Acc	275.70	292.70	+0.50	4.45
Intl Growth	293.80	313.70	-1.50	...
-do- Acc	326.30	348.40	-1.60	...
Japan Gen	126.00	134.80	+1.50	...
-do- Acc	127.20	136.20	+1.50	...
Mngd P folio Inc	86.45	91.00	+0.05	1.83
-do- Acc	89.28	93.97	+0.05	1.83
Monthly Income	139.70	147.50†	+0.70	4.76
Recovery	274.90	293.90†	+0.50	0.74
-do- Acc	321.00	343.20†	+0.50	0.74
Gilt Gth Tst	60.08	61.95	+0.04	7.22
-do- Acc	75.43	77.77	-0.05	7.22

FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 3SH. Dealing: 0722 411411.
Administration: 0722 411622

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Equity Dist	337.99	359.56	-1.91	3.05
-do- Acc	682.43	725.99	-3.85	3.05
Euro Gth Dist	96.95	103.14	-0.63	1.15
-do- Acc	99.84	106.21	-0.66	1.15
Fixed Int Dist	128.09	135.49†	+0.13	6.76
-do- Acc	212.60	224.88†	+0.21	6.76
Intl Gth Dist	68.91	73.31†	-0.09	0.85
-do- Acc	71.28	75.83†	-0.10	0.85
Nth Amer Dist	161.14	170.84†	-0.73	0.67
-do- Acc	174.90	185.43†	-0.49	0.67
Pac Basin Dist	200.00	212.77†	-0.07	0.37
-do- Acc	203.08	216.04†	-0.18	0.37
Stewardship Dist	283.49	301.58	-0.11	1.98
-do- Acc	335.38	356.79	-0.14	1.98
Stwd Inc Dist	58.13	61.84	-0.01	4.32
-do- Acc	70.80	75.41	-0.02	4.32
N Am Stwd Dist	90.75	96.54†	-0.87	0.02
-do- Acc	96.00	102.13†	-0.99	0.02

GT UNIT MANAGERS
8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ. 071 283 2575. Dealing: 071 626 9431

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Am Sp Sits	137.20	147.10	-2.00	...
European	373.80	396.70	-2.00	0.97
Far East General	179.30	190.70	...	0.34
Germany	89.90	95.19	+0.16	0.42
Global Assets In	62.43	66.77	-0.11	2.25
Global Assets Ac	65.42	69.97	-0.10	2.22
Income	105.80	113.20	-0.50	6.99
International	237.70	254.30	-0.90	0.99
Intl Income	71.32	75.91	-0.07	4.72
Japan General	280.00	298.50	-1.70	...
Smllr Cos Div	44.29	47.37†	+0.16	5.94
UK Capital Inc	149.00	159.40	-1.10	3.98
-do- Acc	252.70	270.30	-1.80	3.91
UK Spec Sits	68.00	72.73	-0.85	1.56
US General	109.50	114.40	-0.70	0.11
W wide Spec Sits	110.40	118.10	+0.50	0.11

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
Gartmore House, 16/18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ. 071 623 1212.
Dealing: 0277 264421. Services: 0800 289 336

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	42.20	45.13	-0.20	1.31
Cash Trust	127.05	127.05†	+0.02	5.99
Pract Inv Inc	98.65	103.65	-0.08	4.29
-do- Acc	206.35	221.29	-0.17	4.29
UK Smaller Cos	91.27	97.88	+1.22	1.85
Income Funds				
Preference Share	23.55	25.19†	...	8.85
High Inc	29.75	31.82	-0.23	5.66
UK Equity Inc	121.82	130.29	-0.20	4.63
Intl Fxd Inc	28.61	29.65†	+0.05	5.36
International Funds				
Gold Intl	58.72	62.97	+0.81	1.86
Frontier Markets	39.38	42.23	+0.64	0.31
Global Inc Gth	113.61	121.35	-0.01	2.79
UK Intl	106.47	113.87†	-0.27	1.21
Overseas Funds				
American	123.48	131.88	-0.36	0.61
European	77.44	82.14	-0.17	0.99
Euro Sel Opps	88.46	94.09	-0.44	1.29
American Emerg	73.04	78.33†	-1.64	...
Hong Kong	93.77	100.56	-2.73	2.18
Japan	153.34	163.20	+3.21	...
Pacific Growth	127.95	137.21	-1.65	0.56

GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT
Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR. 071 378 7979.
Dealing: 071 588 0526

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth	111.65	119.41	-0.19	0.65
American Gth	116.62	124.72	-0.58	0.36
European Gth	64.07	68.53	-0.18	0.82
German Horizn	44.97	47.95	+0.01	0.92
Japan Gth	57.76	61.78	+1.34	...
Pacific Inc	112.17	119.96	-2.30	3.22
Pacific Strategy	92.73	99.18	+0.74	...
UK Prog Inc	68.49	73.25	-0.17	6.11
Gt British Cos	46.72	49.96	-0.30	2.00
UK Small Cos	42.26	45.20	+1.33	2.60

GRE UNIT MANAGERS
36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE. 071 538 9668

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Cash	129.70	129.70	...	5.76
Gilt Fixed	117.60	124.70	...	6.74
Growth Equity	279.00	298.00	-1.00	2.28
Guardhill	411.60	439.70	-1.40	2.50
Income Trust	101.00	107.80†	...	4.44
International	141.50	151.10	+0.20	0.27
Japan Trust	95.20	101.70†	+2.25	...
Managed	...	...	...	...
Nth American	241.90	258.40	-1.70	0.45
Pacific	304.10	324.80	+3.10	...
Prop Shares	...	...	...	...
Small Cos	...	...	...	...
European	317.00	338.60†	+0.40	0.53

HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
PO Box 600, Edinburgh EH15 1EW. 0800 838868

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Global Adv Inc	33.15	35.16	+0.10	1.85
-do- Acc	34.58	36.66	+0.10	1.85
Inc Adv Inc	28.34	29.94†	+0.10	4.43
-do- Acc	29.12	30.87	+0.10	4.43

HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. Enquiries: 0277 227300.
Dealing: 0277 690390

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Canadian	60.46	64.77	+0.34	0.66
Equity Income	107.20	114.00	-0.70	3.89
European	125.80	133.10	-0.60	1.55
Intl Situation	67.76	72.09	-0.10	...
Japanese	104.30	110.90	+3.30	...
North American	97.74	103.70	-0.40	0.07
Scandinavian	97.74	103.30	-0.70	0.60
Smaller Cos	27.80	29.57†	+0.14	2.71

HENDERSON
PO Box 2003, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1XT. Enquiries: 0277 227300.
Dealing: 0277 234772

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Amer Smaller	88.51	94.66	-0.37	...
Asian Enterprise	106.73	114.65	+0.11	1.18
Australian	116.14	124.15	+0.81	1.43
European	332.24	352.08	+1.18	1.25
European Inc	64.85	68.67	-0.24	3.11
Euro Sml Co	111.95	119.39	+0.23	1.32
Extra Income	243.70	259.43†	+0.08	5.36
Family of Funds	64.71	69.06†	+0.80	1.49
Fixed Interest	54.49	58.27†	+0.03	8.40
Global Resour	73.39	78.77	+0.64	1.70
High Inc	263.32	281.48†	-0.01	4.81
Income Gth	223.09	237.58	-1.02	3.96
-do- Acc	561.40	597.88	-2.56	3.96
International	209.48	222.90	+0.17	1.00
Japan Spc Sit	171.55	182.41	+3.38	...
Japan	148.56	157.91†	+3.53	...
N Amer	221.48	235.72†	-1.38	0.22
Pacific Smllr Cos	143.55	154.42	+0.04	1.54
Pref Gth	44.80	48.68†	-0.01	9.10
Smaller Cos Div	148.13	161.45†	+0.18	4.62
Special Sits	344.71	365.10	...	1.59
-do- Acc	374.77	403.00	...	1.59
Best of British	53.14	57.03	-0.07	2.40
Spirit of the East	49.43	52.74	+0.53	0.74

HILL SAMUEL UT MANAGERS
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon. 081 686 4355

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
British	84.76	90.65	-0.28	2.34
Capital	145.70	155.80	-0.30	2.52
Dollar	291.50	311.70	-1.10	0.30
European	178.60	191.00	-0.60	0.79
Far East	201.50	215.30†	-1.30	0.71
Financial	617.90	660.80	-2.50	2.70
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	25.10	26.07†	...	8.33
High Yield	94.81	101.40	...	5.41
Income	126.30	135.00	-0.40	3.73
Intl	192.40	205.70†	+0.50	0.55
Japan Tech	50.65	54.17†	+0.98	...
Nat Resources	50.13	53.61	+0.13	0.62
Security	280.90	300.40	-3.90	2.57
Smaller Cos	102.10	109.10	+0.40	1.79
Special Sits	127.20	136.00	+0.20	2.41
US Smaller Cos	69.97	74.83	-1.11	...

IBI FUND MANAGERS
36 Queen St, London, EC4R 1BN. 071 489 8473

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Brit O seas	233.60	245.90	-2.40	1.45
Capital Gwth	101.50	106.80	...	2.51
Inv Trusts	114.40	120.40	...	0.80

INVESCO MIM UT MANAGERS
11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR. 071 626 3434. Dealing: 0800 010733

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
UK Specialist Trusts				
Smaller Cos	21.43	22.91	+0.14	2.06
Special Features	25.46	27.05	-0.13	1.81
-do- Acc	29.86	31.72	-0.16	1.81
General Funds				
UK Growth	50.49	54.10	-0.07	2.68
Assets Earnings	67.39	71.60†	-0.23	2.18
do Acc	79.32	84.27†	-0.28	2.16
Managed Invest	76.99	82.28	+0.17	1.41
Rupert Children	73.06	77.98	-0.44	1.85
High Income Funds				
Cashbox	51.41	51.41	...	5.94
Extra Inc	73.99	79.44†	-0.17	4.98
Gilt	27.15	28.58†	-0.01	7.29
Income Gth	36.64	39.19	-0.06	3.62
MIMstar	75.13	77.13	+0.15	8.77
Preference	17.48	18.57	+0.01	7.24
UK Income	290.90	311.20	-0.20	3.70
Sector Specialist Funds				
Fincl Sec	50.26	53.40†	-0.09	1.93
Property Shares	52.02	55.27	-0.02	2.54
Exempt Funds				
Exempt	133.60	140.30	-0.30	3.69
European Acc	103.40	109.50	+0.10	2.08
European Dist	98.35	104.30	+0.10	2.08
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Gth	47.62	50.63	+0.05	1.01
European Perf	97.95	103.90	-0.20	1.33
-do- Acc	99.78	105.80	-0.20	1.34
Euro Small Cos	18.77	19.97	+0.01	0.98
French Growth	62.52	66.25	-0.59	0.79
-do- Acc	66.10	70.05	-0.62	0.79
Hong K/China	56.87	60.72†	-0.88	1.86
Intl Growth	45.71	48.36	+0.17	0.89
-do- Acc	45.71	48.36	+0.17	1.09
Japan Perf	24.30	25.80	+0.55	...
Accum Units	24.30	25.80	+0.56	...
Japan Smllr Cos	25.90	27.48	+0.51	...
Singapore Asean	63.47	69.09	+0.26	0.71
-do- Acc	63.86	69.52	+0.26	0.71
South East Asia	189.80	204.90	-1.00	1.03
US Smllr Cos	106.40	113.00	-0.70	...
-do- Acc	107.50	114.20	-0.80	...
Overseas Income Funds				
Global Inc	75.99	80.92†	-0.07	2.93
Intl Bond	55.46	56.18	+0.02	6.54

KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUST LTD
10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3. 071 956 6600. Dealing: 071 956 7354

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Cash Acc*	68.49	68.83†	-0.01	6.75
Extra Income	49.69	52.86†	-0.09	7.28
Gilt Yield	117.20	125.60	-0.20	8.25
Global Income	180.00	191.50	-0.64	4.46
High Yield	126.00	134.00	-0.40	6.51
Smllr Cos Div	42.50	45.21	+0.34	6.10
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	88.01	93.63	-0.48	...
North American	72.51	77.14	-1.03	0.23
European	121.40	129.10	-0.40	0.92
Euro Special	72.60	77.23	-0.30	1.07
General	257.20	273.60	-1.30	3.52
Japan	292.20	310.90	+2.80	...
Japanese Special	155.30	165.20	+0.70	...
Master Acc	202.70	215.60	-1.00	1.53
Pacific	219.80	233.80	-0.70	0.40
Smaller Cos	92.21	98.10	+0.76	2.35
UK Equity Gth	32.77	34.86	-0.16	2.84

LAS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
113 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 5EB. 031 550 5151

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
European	68.38	72.74†	-0.08	0.99
Extra Income	23.33	24.82†	-0.08	3.80
Far East	21.31	22.67	+0.03	1.00
Income Gwth	70.08	71.35	-0.19	3.00
Intl Growth	46.43	49.39	-0.04	0.99
Japan	47.58	50.62	+0.84	...
Maximum Dist*	100.10	102.10†	...	8.33
N Amer Equity	38.20	40.64	-0.03	0.43
UK Equity	83.17	88.48	-0.36	2.00

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT
1 White Hart Yard, London SE1. 071 407 5966

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Income Gth Inc	50.77	54.01†	-0.34	4.92

LEGAL & GENERAL UT MANAGERS
5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood Essex. Enq: 0277 227300, Dealing: 0277 690395

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Equity Dist	409.00	435.10	+2.70	3.03
Equity Acc	770.10	819.30	+5.10	3.03
Equity Income	86.24	91.74†	-0.12	3.35
European	89.09	94.78	+0.24	1.74
Far Eastern	146.60	156.00	+1.40	0.37
Fixed Interest	48.72	51.83†	-0.02	8.00
Gilt	89.16	94.55	+0.02	6.80
Global Growth	57.56	61.23	+0.19	1.11
Intl Bond	55.03	58.54	+0.28	5.40
Japanese	51.17	54.44	+1.42	...
Overseas Equity	85.48	90.94†	+0.50	0.91
Pacific Gth	72.55	77.18	+0.01	1.55
North American	132.40	140.90†	+0.80	1.20
UK Recovery	72.38	77.00	+0.82	2.68
UK Smllr Cos	94.85	100.90†	+0.50	2.09
Worldwide	70.27	74.76	...	2.76

LLOYDS BANK UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF. 0634 834313

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	306.60	326.20	-1.20	3.12
-do- Acc	664.00	706.40	-2.50	3.12
Cond Euro Gth	47.40	49.90	-0.17	1.63
-do- Acc	50.12	52.76	-0.18	1.63
Extra Inc	230.70	245.50	...	4.09
-do- Acc	501.20	597.10	...	4.09
German Gth	93.39	98.31	-0.42	0.38
-do- Acc	97.94	103.10	-0.50	0.38
Income	432.50	460.20	-0.80	3.85
-do- Acc	1096.0	1166.0	-2.00	3.85
Japan Growth	69.93	74.40	+1.51	0.01
-do- Acc	70.18	74.66	+1.52	0.01
Master Trust	49.41	52.57	-0.19	1.35
-do- Acc	53.73	57.17	-0.21	1.35
N American Gen	181.30	192.90	+0.50	0.01
-do- Acc	209.40	222.80	+0.50	0.01
NAm Sm Co Rec	134.20	142.80	-1.80	0.01
-do- Acc	136.90	145.70	-1.00	0.01
Pacific Basin	177.00	188.40	-3.10	0.53
-do- Acc	186.30	198.20	-3.20	0.53
Small Cos Rec	288.30	303.50	+10.40	2.42
-do- Acc	371.90	391.50	+13.50	2.42
UK Growth	75.55	80.38	-1.74	2.46
-do- Acc	88.09	92.72	-2.04	2.46
Worldwide Gth	253.00	269.20	-3.40	0.30
-do- Acc	372.80	396.60	-5.10	0.30

LONDON & MANCHESTER
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282673

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
General	74.83	80.29	-0.31	3.10
Income	57.29	61.47	-0.04	6.20
International	51.28	55.02	+0.06	0.90
American	57.84	62.06†	-0.29	0.40
Japan	37.26	39.98	+0.82	...
Tst of Inv Trusts	49.91	53.55	-0.03	2.10

M & G SECURITIES LTD
Victoria Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1FB
Customer Services/Unit Dealing: 0245 390390

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Gen	374.40	398.70	-2.80	0.80
-do- Acc	461.00	487.30	-3.40	0.80
American Rec	383.50	408.50	-2.60	0.68
-do- Acc	438.80	464.00	-2.90	0.68
Am Sm Co Acc	116.60	123.40	-0.40	0.02
Australia Acc	121.70	128.70	+0.70	1.91
Capital	590.60	622.50	-1.00	3.41
-do- Acc	642.00	678.50	-1.10	3.41
Commodity Acc	344.00	363.80	+2.30	1.53
Compnd Gth	772.10	816.50	+1.10	3.61
Dividend	32.20	34.40	-0.20	4.82
-do- Acc	125.30	134.00	-0.60	4.82
Equity Inc	270.80	289.80	+2.80	5.88
European Div	53.80	57.50†	-0.10	5.23
-do- Acc	60.80	65.00	-0.10	5.23
European Gen	352.70	373.00†	-1.10	1.86
-do- Acc	440.60	466.00	-1.40	1.86
Extra Yield	339.00	362.70	-1.80	5.13
-do- Acc	974.30	1042.5	-5.20	5.13
Far Eastern	234.40	247.90	+0.60	1.59
-do- Acc	307.40	325.10	+0.80	1.59
Fund of Inv	452.00	478.00	+1.00	2.63
-do- Acc	815.70	862.30	+1.90	2.63
General	49.90	52.80†	-0.20	4.10
-do- Acc	131.40	139.00	-0.60	4.10
Gilt Fxd Int	61.10	61.10	...	9.14
do Acc	148.60	148.70	-0.10	9.14
Gold	31.00	32.80†	+0.30	2.49
-do- Acc	36.30	38.40	-0.40	2.49
High Inc	22.40	23.70†	-0.10	5.41
-do- Acc	82.70	87.50	-0.30	5.41
Intl Growth	62.10	65.70†	-0.20	1.14
-do- Acc	107.10	113.30	-0.30	1.14
Intl Inc	83.10	88.50	-0.30	5.42
Japan Gen Acc	37.40	39.50	+0.68	...
Japan Smllr Cos	105.20	111.20	+1.00	0.02
Midland	48.30	51.10	+0.80	4.75
-do- Acc	152.70	161.30	+2.50	4.25
Recovery	33.00	35.00†	-0.20	3.60
-do- Acc	51.80	55.00	-0.30	3.60
Second Gen	54.80	58.00†	...	4.14
-do- Acc	134.00	141.80	...	4.14
Smaller Cos	53.90	57.00	-0.40	4.12
-do- Acc	109.40	116.20	+0.80	4.12
Trustee	35.20	37.20	...	4.49
Charibond 3	1110.90	...	...	9.72
Charifund 2	930.30	996.30	-2.80	5.40
Pension ex 1	837.10	837.60	-3.70	4.73
NAACIF Inc 3	144.50	...	...	8.31
-do- Acc 3	1023.7	...	...	8.31

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
PO Box 418, Chester X. CH99 9QG. 0244 680066

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Inv Port Inc	126.40	135.10†	-0.15	2.66
-do- Acc	140.30	150.00†	-0.15	2.66
UK Income	104.60	111.90†	-0.09	3.21
-do- Acc	116.70	124.80†	-0.09	3.21

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. 031 229 5252

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Emerg Mkts	70.09	74.96	-0.08	0.67
Far East (Pacific)	109.80	116.50	-0.20	0.49
Income Growth	68.92	73.16	-0.15	4.42
European	61.14	64.90	-0.02	2.13
Nth American	54.47	57.82	-0.49	1.25
UK Growth	72.50	76.96	-0.13	1.54
Intl Growth	81.36	86.36	+0.06	0.60
Charities	103.60	109.90	-0.20	4.26
Intl Income	60.79	64.53†	-0.32	4.96
Japan	37.47	39.77	+0.51	...

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD
33 King William St, EC4R 9AS. 071 280 2860

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American	183.10	194.30	-1.80	...
-do- Acc	195.70	207.60	-2.00	...
Cash	100.20	100.20†	...	6.85
-do- Acc	127.50	127.50†	...	6.85
European Gth	181.20	192.20	-0.70	0.36
-do- Acc	194.00	205.80	-0.70	0.36
General	444.20	472.90	-2.60	2.70
-do- Acc	832.90	888.50	-5.00	2.70
Global Dist	129.50	136.00	+0.10	5.43
-do- Acc	141.90	149.10	+0.20	5.43
Income	132.40	141.20	-0.10	5.16
-do- Acc	190.50	203.10	-0.10	5.16
International	339.00	361.30†	-0.70	1.15
-do- Acc	450.00	479.40†	-0.90	1.15
Japan	138.90	147.40†	+1.60	...
-do- Acc	142.60	151.30†	+1.60	...
New Europe	126.00	134.50	+0.40	1.49
-do- Acc	126.00	134.30	+0.40	1.49
Recovery	269.80	287.80	+0.40	3.32
-do- Acc	337.10	359.60	+0.40	3.32
European Inc	70.42	74.58†	+0.17	3.15
-do- Acc	89.34	94.58†	+0.21	3.15
Brit Blue Chip	69.70	74.30	-0.37	3.39
-do- Acc	81.61	87.00	-0.43	3.39
Portfolio	70.42	74.80	-0.36	3.22
-do- Acc	78.91	83.98	-0.39	3.22
Gold General	50.61	53.99	+1.21	4.50
-do- Acc	51.30	54.73	+1.22	4.50
Pacific	77.86	83.06	-0.75	0.69
-do- Acc	82.31	87.80	-0.77	0.69
UK Smaller Cos	47.22	50.37	+0.17	1.77
-do- Acc	52.51	56.02	+0.20	1.77

MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS LTD
192 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3RD. Dealing: 0742 529 200
Enquiries: 0742 529 076

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Dist	55.25	59.09	-0.05	3.76
-do- Acc	55.25	59.09	-0.05	3.76
British Dist	75.34	80.58	-0.33	2.46
-do- Acc	83.22	89.01	-0.36	2.46
European Gth	155.50	165.90	-0.50	0.37
-do- Acc	195.20	208.30	-0.50	0.37
Extra High Inc	65.10	69.63†	-0.05	6.94
-do- Acc	113.30	121.00	-0.10	6.94
Gilt Fixed Int	55.56	57.50	-0.08	7.17
-do- Acc	144.20	150.30	-0.20	7.17
High Yield	205.10	219.40	-0.20	5.39
-do- Acc	470.70	503.40	-0.40	5.29
Income	265.10	283.50	-0.40	4.20
-do- Acc	544.30	582.00	-0.70	4.20
Japan Gth	249.60	266.90	+6.20	...
-do- Acc	265.50	281.80	+6.60	...
Mandarin Acc	82.48	88.21	-0.61	1.42
North American	158.30	169.30	-0.10	0.77
-do- Acc	199.00	212.80	-0.10	0.77

MORGAN GRENFELL INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD
20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT. Dealing: 071 826 0826.
Enquiries: 071 826 0123

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Gth	239.00	254.50†	-3.60	0.46
Deposit Inc	100.26	100.26†	+0.01	6.45
Deposit Acc	121.07	121.07†	+0.01	6.45
Euro Gth Acc	235.10	251.00†	-1.10	...
Europe	108.70	116.90	-0.30	...
Intl Gth	148.80	158.70	+0.30	...
Japan Tracker	54.84	58.11	+1.59	...
UK Equity Inc	136.90	147.00	+0.60	5.34
-do- Acc	164.40	177.00	+0.70	5.34
UK Intl Tracker	137.20	147.00	-0.70	1.59
US Eq Ind Trkr	182.90	195.90	-0.70	1.35
-do- Acc	192.40	205.70	-0.70	1.35
Asian Tracker	122.70	134.30	-1.40	1.14

MURRAY JOHNSTONE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT
7 West Nile St, Glasgow G2 2PX. 0345 090 933

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Inc	166.20	170.00	-0.30	2.60
European	56.30	57.83	-0.40	1.38
Olympiad	49.26	50.61	+0.11	0.77
Global Bond	46.44	46.95	...	7.05
Smaller Cos	56.65	59.04	+0.15	2.06
Equity Income	88.74	91.25†	-0.16	5.28
UK Growth	80.80	83.17	-0.44	1.76

NM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
The Hilton Centre, North Harbour, Portsmouth. Enquiries: 0705 372222.
Dealing: 0705 387738

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Acc	45.69	48.73	-0.16	0.74
Australian Acc	250.50	268.70	-0.70	...
Conscience	61.07	65.37†	+1.04	1.41
-do- Acc	65.58	69.98	+1.12	1.41
European	156.30	166.70	-0.40	1.30
-do- Acc	166.70	177.80	-0.50	1.30
Extra Income	69.81	74.50	-0.18	6.06
-do- Acc	104.40	111.40	-0.30	6.06
Far East Gth	128.90	137.70	-0.60	0.06
Gilt Fxd Inc	57.70	61.08	-0.07	7.55
Gold	25.38	27.29	+0.51	...
-do- Acc	27.33	29.38	+0.54	...
Income	49.75	53.06†	+0.38	5.37
-do- Acc	149.10	159.00	+1.10	5.37
International	26.64	28.58	-0.02	0.94
-do- Acc	38.27	41.06	-0.03	0.94
Jap Sm Cos Acc	229.30	244.50	+3.40	...
S pore Mly Acc	137.30	147.20	-2.50	...
Smllr Cos Acc	22.64	24.34†	+0.19	1.97
Special Sits	30.52	32.81	-0.02	1.86
-do- Acc	34.82	37.44	-0.04	1.86
Tokyo	60.39	64.62	+1.52	...
-do- Acc	61.21	65.29	+1.55	...
US Smllr Co Acc	103.70	110.90	-1.80	...
UK Equity	152.50	162.60†	-1.00	2.78
-do- Acc	282.80	301.40	-1.70	2.78

N & P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
35 Fountain St, Manchester M2 2AF. 061 237 5322

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
N&P UK Growth	64.23	68.33	-0.24	3.04
N&P Glt Fxd Int	72.99	77.24	-0.06	7.05
N&P Higher Inc	171.20	181.70†	+0.80	5.37
N&P UK Income	93.85	100.38	-0.27	4.36
N&P Intl	80.05	86.08	-0.12	2.34
N&P Smaller Cos	67.61	73.33	+0.34	1.90

NEWTON FUND MANAGERS
2 London Bridge, London SE1 9RA. 071 407 4404

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
General	150.69	160.31	-0.17	3.05
Global	243.82	259.39	-1.22	1.12
Income	186.96	198.90†	-0.34	4.48
Intl Bond	120.48	128.18	+0.41	7.43

PEARL UNIT TRUST LTD
PO Box 580, Peterborough PE2 6BR. 0733 470470. Dealing: 0800 626577.

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Growth	132.20	139.40	-0.20	2.95
-do- Acc	228.80	240.80	-0.30	2.95
Income	205.60	218.70	-0.50	3.99
Intl Equity	194.40	206.80	+0.50	1.24
-do- Acc	212.80	226.40	+0.50	1.24
Equity	207.20	220.40†	-0.90	2.74
-do- Acc	420.10	446.90	-1.80	2.74
UK Ind 25 Acc	64.32	68.42	-0.19	2.20
UK Income	56.20	59.78†	-0.14	5.48
UK Smllr Co Acc	63.96	68.03	+0.52	2.05
New Europe Acc	57.08	60.72	-0.36	1.87

PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST
48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames. 0491 417000

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Asian Smllr Mkt	75.75	81.02	-0.25	0.25
PEP Gth Inc	89.77	96.02	+0.30	1.29
Intl Gth	420.79	450.05	-0.07	1.42
Income	269.39	288.12	+0.01	4.39
W wide Recov	259.94	278.02	-0.26	1.05
American Gth	191.36	204.67	-1.18	0.01
Intl Emerg Cos	159.65	170.75	+0.17	0.25
Far East Gth	159.55	170.65	+1.31	0.39
European Gth	101.40	108.45	-0.44	1.24
UK Growth	69.67	74.52	+0.18	3.24
High Income	73.53	78.65†	+0.03	5.32
Japanese Gth	147.67	157.36	+2.73	0.01

PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Walbrook Hse, 23 Walbrook, London EC4N 8LD. Dealing: 0800 262443

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
International	157.90	168.00	+0.10	0.99
High Income	101.00	107.40	+0.10	4.01
Conv Gilt	106.20	112.90	+0.20	6.66
Far East	262.60	279.30	+0.10	0.26

PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT
1 Seedless Hse Sq, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. 0622 674751

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American	48.40	51.49	+0.12	0.57
Emerging Mkts	54.12	57.57	-0.39	0.25
General	45.71	48.63†	-0.17	3.52
International	76.32	81.19	-0.42	1.40
Gilt Units	25.17	28.95	-0.01	8.20
Global F&F	33.03	35.14	-0.22	2.22
Income Gth	59.51	63.31	-0.12	5.56
European	40.03	42.59	-0.14	1.25
Gilt/Fixed Int	24.98	26.57†	-0.04	6.27

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
51/59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex IG1 2DL. 081 478 3377. Pricebank 0426 925091

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Pru Mngd Tst**	27.42	29.32	+0.05	1.93
Pru Gth Fxn Inc	101.69	101.69	+0.02	6.48
-do- Acc	103.47	103.47	+0.02	6.48
Pru Equity	632.21	676.16	-2.03	2.77
Pru Equity Inc	77.17	82.53	-0.11	4.45
Pru European	158.34	169.34	-0.16	1.99
Pru Global Gth	72.15	77.16†	-0.05	1.67
Pru High Inc	80.96	86.57†	-0.23	5.66
Pru Intl	140.04	149.77†	+0.10	1.44
Pru Intl Sm Co	59.88	64.04	+0.02	1.01
Pru Japanese	133.08	142.33	+3.69	...
Pru Nth Amer	136.14	145.60	-0.51	0.48
Pru Pacific Mkt	63.88	68.32†	-0.30	2.05
Pru Premr Inc	48.44	50.49†	+0.03	7.59
Pru Smllr Cos	76.06	81.34	+0.39	2.57
Pru Spec Sits	93.36	99.85†	-0.33	2.67
Pru UK Growth	105.41	112.73	-0.35	2.57

** Formerly Holborn Trust

ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
St Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8NR. Dealing: 071 634 2981/4

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Income	149.03	159.44	-0.42	3.88
Japan	199.96	214.11	+4.16	...
Major UK Cos	90.62	97.58†	-0.48	2.73
America Income	448.02	470.62	-1.80	0.69
-do- Acc	516.99	553.99	-1.87	0.69
Smllr UK Cos	236.60	258.04	+0.04	2.07
Smllr European	230.34	245.55	-0.91	1.72

SAVE & PROSPER GROUP
16-22 Western Rd, Romford RM1 3LB. 0708 766966 or 0800 829829 (PEPs only)

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Amer Inc Gth	67.80	71.91	...	3.95
Capital Units	131.90	140.30†	-0.50	1.66
Commodity	85.55	91.01	-0.37	1.25
European Gth	138.80	147.60	-0.80	1.57
Financial Sec	157.90	167.90	-1.90	2.12
High Return	202.80	215.70†	-0.20	5.04
High Yield	198.00	210.60	-0.30	4.45
Income Units	102.10	108.60	-0.20	4.98
Investment	154.60	164.40	-0.10	1.88
Japan Gth	103.80	110.40	+2.20	...
Japan Smaller	141.90	150.90	+1.50	...
Masterfund	41.73	44.39†	-0.22	1.31
Scotbits	230.30	244.80†	-2.60	2.26
Scotshares	237.00	252.10	+0.30	3.11
Scotyields	217.40	231.20	-0.90	4.28
Select Intl	118.20	125.60	-0.60	0.75
Smaller Cos	201.20	214.00	+1.30	4.81
Special Situation	102.60	109.10	...	0.88
UK Equity	212.90	226.40†	-0.90	2.85
US Growth	133.60	142.10	-0.80	0.31

SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD
33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AS. Client Line 0800 526 535. Broker line 0800 526 540

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American	232.35	247.83	-0.04	0.60
-do- Acc	251.01	267.74	-0.04	0.60
Australian	113.79	121.37	+0.64	0.29
-do- Acc	132.91	141.76	+0.74	0.29
UK Enterprise	191.12	203.86†	+0.83	3.79
-do- Acc	220.76	235.47	+0.96	3.79
European Gth	57.76	61.61†	-0.19	1.33
-do- Acc	59.80	63.78	-0.20	1.33
Euro Smllr Cos	51.74	55.18†	-0.12	0.76
-do- Acc	52.09	55.56	-0.12	0.76
Far Eastern Gth	57.57	61.40	-0.08	...
-do- Acc	58.49	62.39	-0.08	...
Fixed Interest	51.94	54.76	...	8.40
-do- Acc	62.22	65.60	...	8.40
Gilt Income	102.04	107.54	+0.04	8.85
-do- Acc	137.96	145.39	+0.04	8.85
Income	285.49	304.52	-0.56	4.37
-do- Acc	826.92	882.06	-1.64	4.37
Japan Enterprise	48.29	51.50	+0.96	...
-do- Acc	48.29	51.50	+0.96	...
Japan Smllr Cos	302.34	322.49†	+2.61	...
-do- Acc	302.94	323.14	+2.62	...
Pacific Gth	74.92	79.91	-0.46	0.86
-do- Acc	76.73	81.85	-0.47	0.86
Smaller Cos	170.64	182.01†	+0.95	1.69
-do- Acc	195.56	208.59	+1.08	1.69
Tokyo	78.58	83.81	+2.19	...
-do- Acc	79.37	84.66	+2.22	...
UK Equity	192.67	205.51†	-0.37	3.33
-do- Acc	356.77	380.57	-0.70	3.33
US Smllr Cos	121.57	129.67	-0.78	...
-do- Acc	121.57	129.67	-0.78	...
World Bd	65.47	69.83	+0.05	1.88
-do- Acc	68.50	73.06	+0.05	1.88

SCOTTISH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NQ. 041 204 2200

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Equity Income	40.53	43.16	+0.15	3.23
Equity Strategy	59.52	63.39	+0.18	2.69
European Opps	66.55	70.88	+0.25	3.22
Maximum Inc	100.48	103.14	+0.02	6.21
UK Smaller Cos	46.00	48.99	+0.21	3.80

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
19 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh. 031 225 2211

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
UK Equity	329.80	352.60	-1.10	3.11
American	240.40	255.10	-0.40	0.86
Pacific	262.50	280.70	+2.40	0.94
European	415.40	444.30	+0.30	1.39
Worldwide	73.34	78.44	+0.09	1.77

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN. 041 248 6100

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
UK Equity	293.70	312.50†	-1.00	3.16
UK Sm Cos Eqy	185.70	197.60†	+1.30	3.25
European	305.90	325.50	-2.20	1.78
North American	241.40	256.90	-3.40	0.61
Income Plus Inc	62.02	65.98	+0.04	3.79
UK Spec Sits	63.91	67.99	-0.40	2.91

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD
6 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA. 031 558 2341/2/3

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Equity Gth Acc	24.18	25.82	-0.05	3.28
Intl Growth Acc	25.32	27.10	-0.09	1.30
Global Inc Acc	29.71	31.51†	-0.13	4.48
Market Ldrs Acc	24.60	26.33	-0.04	3.17

SG TOUCHE REMNANT
Mermaid Hse, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT. 071 248 1250

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Gth	80.41	86.00	-0.57	...
Euro Spec Sits	40.39	42.91	-0.10	...
-do- Acc	42.77	45.43	-0.10	...
Far East Opps	26.71	28.79†	-0.38	...
-do- Acc	27.44	29.58	-0.39	...
General Growth	94.63	101.70†	-0.20	...
Global Tech	119.80	129.20	-3.00	...
Income Growth	94.74	101.90†	-0.40	4.06
Income Monthly	55.44	59.50	+0.08	5.27
Japan Growth	60.12	63.02†	+1.52	...
Overseas Gth	67.55	71.92	+0.36	...
Smaller Cos	66.63	71.84	-0.04	1.97
Special Opps	88.59	95.68	-0.16	2.20
Wld Spec Sits	41.06	44.23	-0.02	...
-do- Acc	41.16	44.33	-0.02	...

STANDARD LIFE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
3 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ. 0800 393777

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Managed	41.28	43.86	+0.10	1.83
Equity Gth Acc	59.22	60.80	...	1.33
UK Eq General	40.90	43.46	...	2.44
-do- Acc	53.67	57.03	+0.10	2.44
European Acc	38.42	40.83	-0.20	1.44
Far East Acc	43.19	45.80	+0.90	0.30
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	29.63	31.34	...	6.89
N American Acc	43.08	45.78	+0.40	0.85
O/S Lgr Cos Acc	238.10	259.40	+3.00	1.76
UK Eq High Inc	33.98	36.00	...	3.99
-do- Acc	39.68	42.10	...	3.99
UK Lgr Cos Inc	280.50	304.40	-0.30	3.92
UK Lgr Cos Acc	360.80	391.50	-0.40	3.92

STATE STREET UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
Birchin Court, 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3V 9AQ. 071 626 1977

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Global A.	N263.30	N283.50	...	1.10
US Eq	$1.961	$2.086	...	0.90
Far East Eq	Y194.8	Y206.9	...	...
Japan Eq	Y191.9	Y203.9	...	...
FT Europe	105.90	112.50	...	1.90
FT North Am	$1.673	$1.777	...	0.90
FT Japan	Y188.7	Y199.8	...	...
FT Asia Ex Jap	102.70	109.10	...	1.30

STEWART IVORY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh. 031 226 3271

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American	335.90	356.60	-1.20	0.30
British	898.30	950.80	+6.00	4.73
European	347.10	369.70	+2.00	1.72
Japan	108.90	115.60	+2.40	...
New Pacific	262.00	279.00	-0.60	1.50
Mngd Cash	95.69	95.69†	...	6.04
Majority Stg	99.86	100.86†	+0.02	6.18
Inv Tst	169.60	179.80	-0.30	2.14
Saints PPP	342.40	360.40	...	...

SUN ALLIANCE
Admin, 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex. 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690389

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc	693.00	742.10†	-2.50	2.66
N America Acc	109.10	116.70†	...	0.20
Far East Acc	103.20	110.40†	+0.60	0.40
W'wide Bond	58.84	62.46	+0.24	5.82
European	75.06	81.24	-0.34	0.75
Equity Income	76.70	82.03†	-1.08	4.40

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ. Dealing: 0256 841414

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Gth	32.75	35.03	-0.17	0.85
Managed Assets	112.47	120.29†	-0.18	3.70
UK Income	34.57	37.41	-0.08	4.04
UK Growth	35.04	37.48	-0.12	2.77
Worldwide Gth	27.58	29.50	-0.02	0.52

TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE. 0264 346794

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American	190.84	208.02	-0.002	0.22
-do- Acc	209.60	222.98	-0.01	0.22
British Gth	81.42	86.62	-0.16	2.41
-do- Acc	95.02	101.08	-0.18	2.41
European	84.44	89.83	-0.41	1.06
-do- Acc	89.07	94.75	-0.44	1.06
Extra Inc	172.44	183.44	-2.00	4.83
-do- Acc	270.71	287.99	-3.13	4.83
General Unit	248.40	264.25†	-1.18	2.75
-do- Acc	490.03	521.31	-2.32	2.75
Income	305.04	324.51	+2.38	3.86
-do- Acc	621.32	660.98	+4.85	3.86
International	452.70	481.60	+2.17	0.71
-do- Acc	591.75	629.52	+2.83	0.71
Pacific	280.57	298.48	+1.40	0.04
-do- Acc	293.84	312.60	+1.47	0.04
Premier Income	49.07	51.11†	-0.02	7.35
-do- Acc	100.75	104.95	-0.05	7.35
Nat Resources	83.90	89.26	+1.16	...
-do- Acc	92.01	97.88	+1.27	...
Selected Opps	88.25	93.88	-1.18	1.26
-do- Acc	110.30	117.23	-1.48	1.26

TARGET TRUST MANAGERS
Chariton Place, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RE. 0264 346747

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
American Eagle	119.20	127.10†	-0.30	0.41
Australia	6.153	6.60†	...	1.21
Equity	173.50	185.50†	-0.50	5.52
Euro Spec Sits	133.00	141.20	-0.20	0.61
Financial	36.09	38.60	...	3.14
Global Opps Inc	81.74	87.39	...	2.30
-do- Acc	84.73	90.58	-0.01	2.30
Gold Gen Inc	35.72	38.30	-0.10	1.15
-do- Acc	68.16	73.10	-0.20	1.15
Income	112.90	120.70†	...	5.13
Japan General	112.70	119.90	+1.80	...
Preference	21.15	22.75†	+0.05	7.97
UK Capital	98.71	105.60†	-0.20	3.19
Worldwide Cap	186.10	198.80†	-0.20	3.23
World Income	76.99	82.06†	-0.47	3.70

THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD
33 Cavendish Sq, London W1M 7HF. 071 493 7262. Dealing: 071 493 3545.

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Amer Smi Cos	68.48	73.04	+1.09	...
-do- Acc	70.62	75.32	+1.11	...
Cash	51.16	51.16	...	7.00
-do- Acc	60.80	60.80	+0.01	7.00
European Opps	57.10	60.82	-0.11	0.48
-do- Acc	57.69	61.45	-0.12	0.48
Far East Opps	125.53	133.89	+0.90	0.72
-do- Acc	128.46	137.02	+0.93	0.72
Gold/Nat. Res	32.00	34.13	-0.33	...
-do- Acc	32.92	35.11	-0.34	...
Japan	58.42	62.21	+1.22	...
-do- Acc	58.42	62.21	+1.27	...
Little Dragons	58.58	62.42	+0.02	0.80
-do- Acc	60.03	64.01	+0.02	0.80
Oriental Income	36.61	39.05	+0.15	4.07
-do- Acc	46.20	49.28	+0.18	4.07
Tiger	185.95	199.41	+0.33	1.32
-do- Acc	185.95	208.58	+0.35	1.32
UK Small Cos	63.17	67.36	+0.08	2.41
-do- Acc	72.44	77.47	+0.10	2.41

UNITED CHARITIES UNIT TRUSTS
Unicorn Hse 252 Romford Rd, London E7. 081 534 5544

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
United Charities	213.80	228.00	-0.30	4.62

WAVERLEY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
13 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4DJ. 031 225 1551

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Australian Gold	9.47	10.07	+0.14	0.50
Pacific Basin	27.29	29.05	-0.03	0.60
Canadian Gth	34.38	36.57	-0.44	0.10
Global Bond	$0.955	$0.995	-0.000	7.30
Penny Share	19.22	20.44	+0.23	1.50

WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
2 Honey Lane, London EC2V 8BT. 071 606 3152

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
City Reserve	52.04	52.04†	+0.01	6.23
Gilt Growth	64.00	66.61	+0.09	...
Gilt Income	51.47	53.56†	+0.02	8.30
Short Dtd Gilt	108.70	110.10	-0.10	4.47
US Govmnt Bd	$0.708	$0.717	+0.000	...
Challenger	86.89	91.01	-0.19	...

WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
1 White Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG. 0705 388046

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Stockmarket Fd	64.48	68.59	-0.23	2.36

Source: Finstat
* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

FT-SE VOLUMES

Abbey Natl	5,000	Coats Vyla	2,100	Legal & Gn	567	Scot & New	559
Alld-Lyons	1,900	Cm Union	1,600	Lloyds Bk	1,400	Scot Power	2,500
Anglian W	1,200	Courtaulds	441	MB Cardn	670	Sears	4,400
Argyll Gp	1,200	De La Rue	130	Marks Spr	6,800	Svrn Trent	1,700
Arjo Wig	2,200	Eng China	878	NPC	273	Shell Trans	3,700
AB Foods	284	Enterpr Oil	3,100	NatWst Bk	3,400	Siebe	2,000
BAA	1,300	Fisons	3,700	Nat Power	3,400	SmKl Bch	1,500
BAT Inds	1,200	Forte	6,000	Nth Wst W	1,000	Smith Nph	801
BOC	1,100	GRE	1,700	Nthrn Fds	1,500	Smith (WH)	1,800
BP	12,000	GUS A	394	P&O	1,300	Sthern Elec	412
BT	6,100	Gen Acc	1,100	Pearson	852	Std Chartd	1,400
BTR	1,600	Gen Elec	7,100	PowerGen	2,700	Sun Allnce	1,400
Bk of Scot	7,300	Glaxo	3,000	Prudential	1,300	Tl Gp	736
Barclays	11,000	Granada	527	RTZ	2,200	TSB	7,900
Bass	1,300	Grand Met	3,100	Rank Org	593	Tate & Lyle	1,200
Blue Circle	1,400	Guinness	2,300	Reckitt Col	303	Tesco	8,500
Boots	1,600	HSBC	2,500	Redland	885	Thames W	1,000
Bowater	365	Hanson	5,200	Reed Intl	514	Thrn EMI	1,400
Brit Airwys	8,400	ICI	818	Rentokil	600	Tomkins	2,000
Brit Gas	6,900	Inchcape	549	Reuters	790	Unilever	737
Brit Steel	20,000	Kingfisher	1,600	Rothmans	1,200	Utd Bisc	871
Burmah C	649	Kwik Save	120	Ryl Ins	2,000	Vodafone	4,100
Cable Wire	1,800	LASMO	21,000	Ryl Bk Scot	1,200	Wellcome	1,500
Cadbury	1,300	Ladbroke	6,200	Sainsbury	1,900	Whitbd 'A'	446
Carlton C	582	Land Secs	659	Scot Hydro	178	Wllms Hld	1,200

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3299.22 (+7.83)
S&P Composite 438.41 (-0.30)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge 17063.41 (+553.73)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 5804.5 (-135.39)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency 97.2 (-0.5)

Sydney: AO 1526.7 (-8.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 1567.84 (+5.52)

FT 30 share: 2184.8 (-2.2)

Brussels:
General 5790.57 (-12.60)

Paris: CAC 471.25 (-3.87)

Zurich: SKA Gen 457.0 (-2.0)

London:
FT A All-Share 1368.48 (-5.39)
FT 500 1509.35 (-6.13)
FT Gold Mines 69.3 (+1.8)
FT Fixed Interest 109.76 (+0.26)
FT Govt Secs 94.83 (+0.38)
Bargains 35017
SEAQ Volume 828.9m
USM (Datastrm) 127.70 (+0.54)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
January 25	February 12	May 6	May 17

Call options were taken out on 28/1/93: ASDA, Astec (BSR), Bellway, BM Group, Br Data Management, Caskei, Hanson Wts, LASMO, Nat West, NMC Group, P&P, Pentos, Premier Cons Oil, Rhino, Sage, Wilshaw.
Puts: BM Group, Lep, Trio. Puts & Calls: BM Group, Premier Cons Oil, Shandwick.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Mar 93	2840.0	2858.0	2829.0	2836.0	6714
Previous open interest: 51333	Jun 93	2856.0	2856.0	2856.0	2851.5	2
Three Month Sterling	Mar 93	94.12	94.15	94.08	94.14	16458
Previous open interest: 275942	Jun 93	94.37	94.46	94.33	94.44	19871
	Sep 93	94.37	94.45	94.29	94.43	7480
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 93	96.68	96.69	96.67	96.68	488
Previous open interest: 20798	Jun 93	96.46	96.48	96.45	96.48	304
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 93	91.93	92.01	91.88	92.01	43551
Previous open interest: 433492	Jun 93	92.70	92.81	92.65	92.81	36249
US Treasury Bond	Mar 93	107-02	107-02	107-02	107-08	3
Previous open interest: 802	Jun 93				106-00	0
Long Gilt	Mar 93	101-00	102-00	100-31	101-28	47436
Previous open interest: 66871	Jun 93	101-24	102-15	101-24	102-09	64
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 93	109.38	109.39	109.34	109.35	557
	Jun 93				108.73	0
German Govmt Bond	Mar 93	92.85	92.98	92.69	92.92	46960
Previous open interest: 150237	Jun 93	92.85	92.97	92.75	92.95	446
Three month ECU	Mar 93	90.40	90.45	90.29	90.45	1251
Previous open interest: 13783	Jun 93	91.38	91.47	91.33	91.47	589
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 93	94.53	94.67	94.52	94.65	10398
Previous open interest: 39051	Jun 93	94.86	95.01	94.86	94.93	4408
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 93	95.35	95.63	95.08	95.43	12307
Previous open interest: 26500	Jun 93	95.48	95.50	95.20	95.35	6

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 78.5 (day's range 78.5-78.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 28	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6860-2.7003	2.6926-2.6959	⅝-⅜ds	1¼-1⅛ds
Brussels	49.05-49.38	49.19-49.30	6-11ds	22-28ds
Copenhagen	9.2260-9.2760	9.2390-9.2610	5⅛-6⅝ds	12⅞-13⅞ds
Dublin	0.9071-0.9186	0.9096-0.9131	6-11ds	22-28ds
Frankfurt	2.3836-2.3988	2.3956-2.3988	⅝-⅜ds	1¼-1⅞ds
Lisbon	216.00-218.20	216.40-217.80	132-180ds	400-517ds
Madrid	169.37-172.22	171.34-172.22	96-109ds	310-352ds
Milan	2228.50-2257.10	2236.20-2245.40	9-11ds	31-34ds
Montreal	1.9140-1.9315	1.9183-1.9204	0.13-0.04pr	0.14-0.13pr
New York	1.5100-1.5225	1.5110-1.5120	0.39-0.38pr	1.16-1.14pr
Oslo	10.1740-10.2370	10.2140-10.2370	2⅛-3⅛ds	8⅛-10⅛ds
Paris	8.1010-8.1300	8.1140-8.1270	4⅛-5ds	12⅜-13⅜ds
Stockholm	10.8290-10.9690	10.8940-10.9170	2⅜-4⅛ds	9⅞-12⅛ds
Tokyo	187.40-188.80	187.66-187.95	½-⅜pr	1⅜-1⅛pr
Vienna	16.25-16.88	16.80-16.85	1⅞-2⅞ds	6⅞-8⅞ds
Zurich	2.1975-2.2081	2.2022-2.2053	¼pr-par	½-⅛pr

Source: Extel. Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5084-1.5110
Australia dollar	2.2173-2.2207
Bahrain dinar	0.566-0.580
Brazil cruzeiro*	23396.6-23412.9
Cyprus pound	0.71-0.72
Finland markka	8.122-8.238
Greece drachma	317.5-324.5
Hong Kong dollar	11.6753-11.6846
India rupee	44.19-45.15
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4585-0.4685
Malaysia ringgit	3.9516-3.9574
Mexico peso	4.66-4.76
New Zealand dollar	2.9133-2.9210
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.647-5.773
Singapore dollar	2.4718-2.4751
S Africa rand (fin)	7.02-7.20
S Africa rand (com)	4.6258-4.6313
U A E dirham	5.528-5.652

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.4695-1.4705
Austria	11.12-11.14
Belgium (Com)	32.56-32.60
Canada	1.2677-1.2682
Denmark	6.1120-6.1220
France	5.3675-5.3725
Germany	1.5838-1.5848
Hong Kong	7.732-7.733
Ireland	1.6590-1.6640
Italy	1478.0-1483.0
Japan	124.15-124.25
Malaysia	2.617-2.619
Netherlands	1.782-1.783
Norway	6.74-6.75
Portugal	143.25-144.00
Singapore	1.637-1.638
Spain	113.0-113.5
Sweden	7.175-7.185
Switzerland	1.4545-1.4555

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6. Finance Hse 7½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 4 Week fixed: 6¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¾; 3 mth 5⅞. Sell: 2 mth 5⅝; 3 mth 5⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	
Sterling Money Rates	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-5⅞
Interbank	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-5⅞

Overnight: open 6⅞, close n/a.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6	6
Sterling CDs	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞
Dollar CDs	3.06	n/a	3.14	3.25	3.60
Building Society CDs	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6⅛-6

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Jan 29, 1993 Agreed rates Feb 24, 1993 to Mar 23, 1993 Scheme I: 8.32%. Schemes II & III: 8.20%. Reference rate Jan 1, 1993 to Jan 29, 1993 Scheme IV & V: 7.0%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Deutschemark:	8⅞-8⅞	8⅞-8⅞	8⅞-8⅞	8⅞-8	8⅞-7⅞
French Franc:	13-12⅞	12⅞-12⅞	12⅞-12⅞	11⅞-11⅞	13-11
Swiss Franc:	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-4⅞
Yen:	3⅞-3⅞	3⅞-3⅞	3⅞-3⅞	3⅞-3⅞	4⅞-3⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Bullion)

Bullion: Open $329.70-330.10 Close: $329.65-330.15 High: $330.25-330.75 Low: $328.50-329.00 Krugerrand: $329.00-331.00 (£217.00-218.50)
Sovereigns: Old $79.00-82.00 (£51.50-53.00) New $79.00-82.00 (£51.50-53.00)
Platinum: $362.25 (£239.65) Silver: $3.69 (£2.435) Palladium: $110.25 (£72.95)

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Lyon	550	62	75	77	10	23	28
(*588)	600	30	45	50	30	46	52
ASDA	60	11	15½	19	4	6½	8½
(*68)	70	7	10	12½	7	11	14
Bass	550	62	77	87	10	20	28
(*589)	600	31	47	59	27	40	50
Boots	500	34	43	50	13	25	30
(*509½)	550	12	21	27	43	53	58
Br Airways	260	27	34	34	9½	19	23
(*276)	280	16	25	28	18	29	33
BP	220	25	28	33	6	10	14
(*237½)	240	11½	18	22	14	18	23
	260	5½	10	15	27	31	34
Br Steel	60	14	17½	17½	3	5½	8
(*71½)	70	9	12	13	7½	9	12½
C&W	700	37	57	69	27	43	53
(*706)	750	17	35	47	59	75	83
CU	600	35	47	51	23	34	42
(*623)	650	12	25	30	56	64	71
Courtauld	550	41	55	-	16	30	-
(*569½)	600	16	34	-	42	57	-
GKN	460	27	39	45	22	31	39
(*473)	500	9	23	27	47	54	60
Grnd Met	420	45	60	66	10	18	24
(*450)	460	22	36	44	26	37	43
ICI	1050	100	112	113	27	44	44
(*1135½)	1100	62	80	85	49	65	65
	1150	33	61	73	80	94	112
Kingfshr	500	66	74	80	6	16	23
(*552½)	550	31	43	52	23	37	45
Ladbroke	200	18	25	30	18	27	32
(*198)	220	10	17	21	32	39	45
Land Sec	460	22	30	31	14	29	32
(*462½)	500	6½	13	16	42	57	60
M&S	300	32	36	44	5½	12	15
(*318½)	330	13	20	28	17	27	29
Sainsbury	550	45	56	67	12	24	29
(*579)	600	18	30	41	36	48	55
Shell	550	15	28	35	25	30	37
(*551½)	600	4	11½	15	65	67	71
SmKl Bch	460	42	57	66	11	21	29
(*486½)	500	20	36	46	30	41	47
Storehse	200	25	33	39	6	12	15
(*210)	220	12	22	29	14	21	24
Trafalgar	90	14	16	21	5½	9	10½
(*96½)	100	7½	12	16	9½	14	16
Unilever	1100	56	73	94	30	45	53
(*1120½)	1150	27	48	66	62	75	82
Utd Bisc	360	20	26	31	20	25	31
(*366½)	390	7½	14	19	41	45	49

Series		Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BAA	750	40	60	69	7	19	31
(*779)	800	12	32	44	32	43	56
BAT Ind	950	44	57	73	11	39	48
(*975½)	1000	16	32	49	36	68	76
BTR	550	18	28	37	10	26	30
(*558½)	600	2½	9	17	46	59	62
Br Aero	220	28	40	48	12	28	37
(*235)	240	15	28	40	19	38	48
Br Telcm	390	22	32	38	4	9½	18
(*409)	420	5	15	21	19	24	33
Cadbury	460	18	26	35	8½	24	29
(*467½)	500	4	11	20	35	50	54
Guinness	460	23	36	45	10	26	34
(*461½)	500	5½	18	30	35	51	60
GEC	280	10	18½	23	6	9½	18
(*283)	300	3	9	13	19½	23	30
Hanson	240	10½	16	20	4½	9½	13
(*246)	260	2	7	11	17	21	25
LASMO	160	9	18	23	10	20	24
(*154½)	180	4	10	15	27	34	37
Lucas	140	12	20	22	7	16	18
(*143)	160	4½	11½	15	21	28	31
P&O	500	57	70	73	6	23	29
(*546½)	550	20	37	55	21	48	55
Pilkington	100	13	20	22	5	11	15
(*105½)	110	7	12	19	10	16	21
Prudential	300	10	18	23	7½	18	22
(*302½)	330	2½	7	12	29	30	42
RTZ	650	30	44	57	13	34	43
(*667½)	700	9	22	36	44	67	75
Scot New	420	33	46	52	4	11	21
(*443)	460	9	25	31	21	29	40
Tesco	260	13	20	27	6	15	17
(*266½)	280	5	12	16	19	26	28
Thames W	460	24	37	42	4	12	22
(*476½)	500	5	16	20	26	32	45
Vodafone	390	12	27	35	18	28	38
(*374½)	420	4	14	24	41	48	55

FT-SE INDEX (*2817½)

	2700	2750	2800	2850	2900	2950
Calls						
Feb	141	89	55	28	11	5½
Mar	163	116	86	57	35	21
Apr	192	134	107	77	54	38
May	211	175	144	97	91½	69½
Jun	205	-	147	-	89	-
Puts						
Feb	7	14	29	51	92	120
Mar	21	31	47	71	102	129
Apr	31	45	65	86	110	141
May	47½	61½	76	99	127	157
Jun	56	-	90	-	147	-

Series		Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	360	24	30	38	14	20	25
(*368½)	390	8½	15	24	32	37	41
Amstrad	20	6½	7½	8½	1	1½	2
(*24½)	25	3	4½	5½	2½	4	4
Barclays	420	32	41	48	19	29	42
(*432)	460	12	23	31	45	52	65
Blue Circ	220	22	29	37	14	26	32
(*225½)	240	12	21	29	28	38	44
Br Gas	260	30	33	36	3	7½	10
(*284½)	280	15	17½	24	8	16	19
	300	6	9½	15	19	29	31
Dixons	220	18	27	32	12	17	23
(*225½)	240	11	17	22	24	29	36
Eurotnl	390	58	55	68	20	32	38
(*411)	420	25	40	54	38	45	57
Forte	180	14	18	23	12	22	25
(*185½)	200	6½	11	16	25	34	37
Glaxo	650	54	73	97	19	31	42
(*686)	700	27	50	71	42	56	65
	750	13	33	51	80	88	98
HSBC	500	54	64	77	12	25	34
(*539)	550	25	37	52	33	50	57
Hillsdwn	140	19	24	27	7	14	18
(*147)	160	8	14	18	17	27	30
Lonrho	70	9½	13½	16	5½	9	11
(*76)	80	5	9	12	11	14	16
Reuter	1350	70	108	137	47	72	95
(*1373½)	1400	47	82	113	74	100	120
R-Royce	110	15½	18	22	5½	9½	12
(*124½)	120	9½	13	18	10½	14	17
Sears	100	10	12½	16	4½	7	10
(*102)	110	5½	7½	10½	10	13	15
Thm Eml	800	42	62	72	20	30	32
(*815)	850	17	37	47	49	59	80
TSB	160	12	16	25	7	11	15
(*166½)	180	4	7½	12	20	23	26
Vaal Reefs	30	4½	5½	6	3	4	4½
(*$32)	35	2½	3	4	6	6½	8
Wellcome	900	48	74	100	35	55	67
(*903½)	950	26	51	73	65	35	94

Series		Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Fisons	220	24	33	41	19	30	35
(*220)	240	15	25	32	31	43	48

Series		Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Eastn Elc	400	24	37	-	6	14	-
(*415)	430	7	-	-	21	-	-

Series		Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Natl Pwr	300	15	25	29	11	17	23
(*304)	330	5	13	16	31	34	41
Scot Pwr	220	11	19	23	6½	9½	16
(*225)	240	3½	8½	13	20	21	29

January 28, 1993 Tot 29033 Calls 15419 Puts 13614 FT-SE Calls 2482 Puts 2694
*Underlying security price.

COMMODITIES

REPORT: Robusta coffee futures closed with small losses in quiet but nervous conditions as the market waited to see if there will be any resumption in the recent sharp downward trend in prices. Cocoa futures closed with marginal losses with the market looking set for a period of sideways trading. Sugar futures were slipping back towards the middle of its recent range after a failed attempt at an upside breakout.

LONDON FOX

COCOA

Mar	704-702	May	792-791
May	714-713	Jul	807-805
Jul	727-726	Sep	813 SLR
Sep	740-738	Dec	848-835
Dec	759-756		
Mar	779 BID		Volume: 6167

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	873-871	Sep	887-886
Mar	877-876	Nov	897-895
May	885-884	Jan	915-907
Jul	874-873		Volume: 2795

RAW SUGAR (FOB)
C Czarnikow

Spot 184.6		Oct	195.0-93.0
Mar	191.0-88.0	Dec	196.0-92.0
May	195.0-93.8	Mar	197.0-93.0
Aug	196.0-94.6	May	198.0-97.0
			Volume: 7

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)
Reuters

Spot 263.2		Oct	244.2-43.7
Mar	254.0-53.7	Dec	246.2-43.8
May	255.9-55.5	Mar	247.7-42.8
Aug	259.7-59.2	May	251.2-43.8
			Volume: 1212

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 28

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	84.27	95.05	120.06
(+/-)	+2.97	-9.24	-1.35
Eng/Wales	84.52	95.19	120.48
(+/-)	-3.10	-8.62	-1.53
(%)	-44.5	-12.2	-27.5
Scotland	77.17	94.51	117.44
(+/-)	-4.41	+10.79	-0.48
(%)	-32.6	-30.1	-61.7

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (p/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Mar	105.0	105.0	May	105.0	105.0
Apr	105.0	105.0			Volume: 13

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	138.25
May	139.95
Jun	140.70
Sep	110.15
Nov	112.10
	Volume: 136

BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	135.05
May	136.20
Sep	108.45
Nov	111.10
Jan	114.15
	Volume: 169

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Feb	156.30
Apr	153.80
Jun	143.50
Aug	144.50
Oct	unq
	Volume: 200

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	64.0	53.9
May	63.0	62.0
Apr	90.0	87.5
		Volume: 166

RUBBER
No 1 RSS CIF (p/kilo)
Mar 66.00-64.50

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): With more and more Opec members displaying a willingness to trim production, prices leapt higher.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.20	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Feb)	18.20	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Mar)	18.30	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	20.05	+0.45
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.10	+0.45

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas .15	186 (+1)	188 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	171 (+2)	172 (+2)
Non EEC 1H Feb	174 (+3)	175 (+2)
Non EEC 1H Mar	173 (+1)	174 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	70 (n/c)	77 (-1)
Naphtha	178 (+2)	180 (+2)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd

GAS OIL

Feb	169.25-69.50	May	169.00-69.25
Mar	169.25-69.50	Jun	169.00-69.25
Apr	169.00-69.25	Jul	169.00-69.25
			Vol: 13254

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	18.28-18.29	Jun	18.57 SLR
Apr	18.37 SLR	Jul	18.52 BID
May	18.47 SLR		Vol: 29515

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Feb	190.75-91.50	May	199.00-02.50
Mar	191.00-93.00	Jun	198.00-02.00
Apr	200.00-02.50		Vol: 300

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 93	1278	1275	1277
Feb 93	1305	1295	1299
Mar 93	1305	1305	1306
Apr 93	1310	1300	1302

Vol: 209 lots. Open int'st: 3487 Index 1279 +4

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1490.0-1490.5	1506.0-1506.5	589050
Lead (£/tonne)	285.00-285.50	294.00-294.25	28550
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1096.0-1096.5	1115.0-1115.5	273025
Tin ($/tonne)	5905.0-5910.0	5960.0-5965.0	13510
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1193.0-1193.5	1214.0-1214.5	477100
Nickel ($/tonne)	5838.0-5840.0	5907.0-5910.0	39336

Shares lose support

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 18. Dealings end today. §Contango day Monday. Settlement day February 8. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Transatlantic	Insurance	
2	Hewetson	Building,Rds	
3	Jessups	Motors,Air	
4	Black (Peter)	Industrial	
5	McAlpine (A)	Building,Rds	
6	Photo-Me	Industrial	
7	Heywd Wlm	Building,Rds	
8	Harmony	Mining	
9	Fairey Group	Industrial	
10	Zambia Copper	Mining	
11	Weir	Industrial	
12	Kwik Save	Foods	
13	Portals	Industrial	
14	Br Aerospace	Motors,Air	
15	T & N	Industrial	
16	Wilson (C)	Building,Rds	
17	Mansfield	Breweries	
18	Eurocamp	Leisure	
19	South West	Water	
20	Forte	Hotels,Cat	
21	FKI	Electrical	
22	Rotork	Industrial	
23	Trafford Park	Property	
24	Wessex Water	Water	
25	Victaulic	Industrial	
26	Wimpey G	Building,Rds	
27	CRH	Building,Rds	
28	Wace	Paper,Print	
29	Volex	Electrical	
30	Plamsbrook	Industrial	
31	Domino	Electrical	
32	Premier	Oils, Gas	
33	BT	Electrical	
34	Low & Bonar	Industrial	
35	Lloyds Abbey	Insurance	
36	More O'Ferrall	Paper,Print	
37	Warburg SG	Banks,Disc	
38	Renison	Mining	
39	Sims Food	Foods	
40	Lee (Arthur)	Industrial	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the *Sunday Times* for full details)

Three winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mr W Innes, Edenbridge; Mr D Coakley, Little Thirkleby, N Yorks and Miss S Shneerson of Ealing W5.

Portfolio Plus

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DIVIDEND £2,000

Claims required for +41 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
75	19	McCarthy & S	23	...	0.5	6.1	...
433	181	Meyer Int	300	+1	16.5	7.3	30.9
14	4	Miskin Gp	4	...	...	...	...
171	52	Mowlem (J)	65	+1	10.5	...	...
78	18	MSM	76	-1	...	...	...
165	90	Newman Tnks	107 †	-5	...	9.9	-
327	146	Persimmon	225	+10	8.6	5.1	18.5
36	19	Phoenix Timber	29	...	...	...	...
1625	1150	Pochins	1475	...	29.0	2.7	8.0
155	66	Prowting	84	...	3.4	5.4	...
23	3¾	Quiligotti	5	...	...	...	...
660	383	RMC Gp	566	-10	20.0	4.7	21.1
137	67	Raine Ind	110	+2	6.0	7.3	18.4
96	23	Ramus	30	...	...	...	...
595	300	Redland	456	-14	23.0	7.3	28.4
101	61	Rodell	72	...	4.3	8.0	9.6
349	152	Rugby Group	218	-2	6.4	3.9	16.4
48	25	Sarfid-Bros	33	+1	...	...	5.9
98	50	Sharpe & Fisher	74	...	4.0	7.2	...
133	70	Sheffield Insul	133	...	5.4	5.4	34.4
85	53	Steetley	85	...	...	3.1	12.7
85	53	Sheerness	66	...	...	10.2	10.5
272	188	Smart (J)	222	...	8.5	5.1	10.1
15	6	Smodin	6½	...	0.3	6.2	7.8
161	51	Tarmac	111	+½	5.5	6.6	45.0
236	129	Tay Homes	149	...	5.8	4.6	9.3
143	34	Taylor Woodrw	78	+2	9.5	...	11.0
600	398	Tilbury Dougls	489	+1	33.0	9.0	16.1
48	18	Tores Hirea	22 †	...	...	2.4	...
228	105	Travis Perkins	176	...	8.0	6.1	34.9
58	20	Try Group	31	+1	6.0	...	4.2
38	20	Tudor	28	...	...	...	...
106	45	Vibroplant	80	-1	3.6	8.0	11.0
55	12	Ward Hldgs	25	+1	0.5	...	...
43	23	Waterhouse	33	+2	...	...	...
470	265	Watts Blake	405	-15	9.3	2.7	25.6
19	9	Wescol	9	...	...	...	...
129	45	Westbury	105	+2	...	6.2	...
18	5	West Scotfield	5	...	...	...	...
22	2	Wiggins	5	...	...	...	...
481	215	Wilson Bowdn	395	+3	8.7	3.0	20.2
221	96	Wilson (C)	154	+5	3.9	3.4	24.4
180	65	Wimpey G	122	+5	...	3.7	46.9
81	26	YJM	29	-1	4.0	18.4	3.3

BUSINESS SERVICES

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
533	348	ADT	475	-3	...	...	-
248	193	Adam & Harvey	218	...	11.0	6.7	2.4
127	53	Air London	72	...	...	6.5	8.9
63	34	African Lakes	37	...	2.0	2.2	7.4
152	81	Aust Sec	132	-1	4.9	4.8	10.7
208	80	BET Ord	99	-2	...	8.8	14.5
100	41	BNB Res	80	+2	4.9	10.9	7.0
318	208	BPP	318	...	6.9	2.9	18.0
285	178	Barbour Index	225 †	...	7.2	3.5	20.4
30½	13	Boustead	16	...	0.7	5.8	32.7
230	111	Brit Data Mgt	230	+1	...	2.5	17.5
14	4	Broadcastle	12	...	...	...	...
101	58	Brooks Service	58	...	4.0	...	18.5
142	72	CRT Gp	200	...	2.4	3.2	11.5
457	262	Capita Group	434	...	5.4	1.7	24.9
36	19	Cattel Plc	35 †	...	0.5	1.9	13.3
230	29½	Chiltern Capital	41	...	...	...	...
39	22	Christie	28	...	...	...	...
259	180	Chubb Sec	258	...	...	1.4	28.5
43	18	Comace	25	...	...	...	...
31	5½	Corp Services	9½	...	...	...	...
103	48	DRT	80	+8	3.3	7.3	4.8
216	145	Davis Service	198	-1	7.9	5.4	15.0
115	85	DW Media	95	+1	...	5.0	3.0
57	8	Gardiner	14	...	...	...	...
48	21	Glasgow (DC)	29	...	1.3	12.4	3.3
245	162½	Hays	245	...	...	...	...
251	187½	Hogg Robinson	214	...	4.6	2.5	...
143½	43	Holmes Protectn	65	...	6.3	3.9	...
147	98	Hunting Whampp	136	-6	...	...	14.6
£107	8037½	ISS B DKr	£107	+200	...	...	15.1
576	375	Inchcape	565	...	12.5	2.9	24.0
760	563	Johnson Clean	760	+1	25.2	4.5	15.8
18½	2¼	Lep	8	+1	...	...	...
244	168	Mitie Gp	243	+1	2.7	1.5	39.9
992	682	Manpower	904	...	...	...	...
44	32½	Michael Page	43	...	1.8	5.6	12.0
267	88	Pennas	267	+5	...	1.1	62.6
9½	2	Prime People	2½	...	...	...	...
398	68	Proudfoot Alex	104	+7	19.5	25.0	2.2
457	353	RCO	421	+1	22.8	4.5	-
183	177	REA	118	...	4.0	4.5	...
81	48	Reed Executive	67	...	...	...	...
165	117	Reliance Secs	143	-2	...	4.2	14.4
13	4	Remmusteries	4 #	...	...	...	...
224	134	Rentokil	221	-1½	1.6	1.0	32.5
290	180	Rolfe & Nolan	240	...	8.2	3.4	16.1
367	234	Salvesen (C)	367	+5	7.0	2.5	20.3
43	25	Scott Pickford	35	...	...	3.7	8.0
206	98	Securiguard	206	+3	9.4	6.3	-
12	1¼	Select Appts	5	...	...	...	...
768	555	Serco Gp	755	...	11.9	2.1	24.2
283	132	Sherwd Cmpts	255	...	...	3.1	6.9
157	82½	Skechley	127	+6	3.0	3.1	15.4
360	270	Warner Howrd	341	-8	5.9	2.3	19.3
81	41½	Welpac	45	...	0.6	1.8	...
17½	7½	Wills Gp	17½	+1	0.1	0.8	22.7

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
246	162	Allied Colloids	242	+1	3.9	2.1	19.2
669	413	Amersham	667	+3	12.5	2.4	25.5
31½	5½	Anglo-Utd	5½	...	0.8	...	...
9025	7362½	BASF DM	8812½	+150	...	8.4	...
260	201	BTP	246	+1	8.8	4.8	18.0
£112	9050	Bayer DM50	£111	+159½	...	4.8	...
248	126	Blagden	146	-2	9.5	8.7	10.5
158	115	Brent Chems	148	...	7.3	6.6	70.8
530	418	Br Bio-Tech	515	...	...	...	...
95	13	Cahil Gp	23	-1½	2.5	15.0	5.8
179	112	Canning (W)	138	+2	7.2	7.0	11.1
616	371	Courtaulds	589	-1	13.0	3.0	15.5
247	142	Croda	243	-4	7.5	4.1	18.5
211	152	Ellis & Everard	193	-1	7.0	4.9	17.4
16½	7	Euro Colour	16	...	0.6	5.4	...
131	43	Frode	129	+½	3.5	3.7	-
279	171	Halstead (J)	270	...	...	2.9	14.9
222	158	Hickson	208	...	7.8	5.0	13.2
£105	7537½	Hoechst	£105	+262½	...	7.1	...
1410	975	ICI	1136	-2	55.0	6.5	27.4
660	434	Laporte	638	...	18.9	3.9	17.2
328	138	Leigh	210	-3	7.8	5.0	17.1
290	11	MTM	13½	...	1.8	...	2.7
1550	1100	Norsk Hydro	1537½	+25	...	2.2	...
400	360	Paracon Zoch	391	...	11.4	3.8	16.9
395	295	-do- 'A'	371	...	11.4	4.1	16.0
301	231	Plysu	282	+3	6.0	2.7	19.7
195	130	Porvair	193	...	...	2.3	20.0
12	4½	Smallbone Speak	4½	...	...	...	...
475	329	Wardle Storeys	462	+1	16.0	4.6	18.6
428	270	Wemblme R	428	+3	16.3	5.1	18.8
397	253	Yorks Chem	391	-1	...	2.5	20.4
273	214	Yule Catto	271	-1	5.4	2.7	16.5

DRAPERY, STORES

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
382	63	Alexon	64	-1	...	8.3	3.5
109	23	Amber Day	50	...	3.1	8.3	12.7
306	190	Argos Plc	288	+5	6.4	2.9	20.7
99	57	Ashley (Laura)	79	+1	0.1	0.2	...
305	180	Asprey	303	...	...	2.1	24.6
340	180	Austin Reed	200	...	6.0	...	58.2
159	112	Beattie (J) 'A'	150	-1	5.7	5.1	14.3
144	74	Bentalls	109	...	3.8	4.7	61.5
248	86	Beverware	235	+9	...	0.7	32.4
114	21	Blacks Leis	27	+1	3.3	...	5.6
371	133	Body Shop	141	-5	1.6	1.5	16.3
13½	3	Brown & Jackson	12½	...	...	...	...
335	260	Brown (N)	335	...	6.0	2.4	20.7
89½	30	Burton	75 †	+1½	2.0	3.6	...
330	126	Cantors	138	...	...	2.6	18.3
358	265	Church	305	...	12.5	5.5	25.1
131	58	Clinton Cards	105	...	3.7	4.8	...
231	151	Coats Viyella	218	+1	7.0	4.3	25.0
163	77	Colourvision	103	...	...	...	16.8
397	300	Courts Furnish	397	...	6.0	1.2	19.8
252	100	Crown Eyes	135	...	...	5.9	6.3
111	65	Dalry Farm Intl	92	-4	...	...	16.3
55	27½	Dewhirst (IJ)	55	...	0.7	1.7	18.2
286	179	Dixons Grp	226 †	...	6.0	3.5	26.6
495	355	Dunhill	379	...	7.7	2.7	13.1
33	13	ERA Gp	21	...	...	...	9.7
780	480	Etys (Wimbldn)	480	...	16.0	4.4	10.7
97	38	Essex Furn	94	...	...	3.9	18.8
258	190	Etam	213	-5	6.6	4.1	19.0
519	340	Fine Art Dev	508	-1	11.0	2.9	19.5
80	25	Fired Earth Tiles	45	-3	4.0	...	32.9
500	438	Forminster	498	...	12.5	3.4	10.4
38	5	French Conn	37	...	...	...	...
75	29	Gabicci	31	...	...	8.6	8.2
69	39	Gent SR	45	...	2.0	5.9	13.2
38	18	Goldsmiths Gp	37	-1	1.8	...	...
2425	1800	GUS	2425	...	40.0	2.2	19.2
1728	1319	-do- 'A'	1580	-40	40.0	3.4	12.5
75	30	Hampden Grp	40	...	...	6.7	3.7
283	123	Harolane	245	...	4.8	2.7	15.0
25	16½	Hebron Plc	22½	...	2.0	11.9	9.8
40	18	Heritage	36	+2	...	...	...
56	25	Honeysuckle	41	-1	...	3.3	6.8
168	130	Hse of Lerose	143	...	10.3	9.6	21.7
105	40	Jacques Vert	65	...	2.0	...	...
598	414	Kingfisher	553	+3	13.0	3.1	16.6
73	54½	Leslie Wise Gp	63	...	4.0	8.5	10.6
675	405	Liberty	675	...	7.2	1.4	46.0
373	162	Lloyds Chem	280	+5	5.5	2.5	11.3
152	90½	MFI	128	-7	...	3.9	16.0
348	268	Marks Spencer	319	-5	7.1	3.0	19.4
474	319	Menzies (John)	469	-1	10.0	2.9	16.3
140	110	Moss Bros	139	...	5.0	4.8	26.8
159½	57	Next	146	-2½	0.7	0.7	28.8
85	15	Oliver (G)	20	...	1.0	...	...
222	110	Oriflame Intl	215 †	...	...	5.6	14.0
143	49	Pentos	52	-1	2.7	7.1	6.2
53½	3	Pepe Group	5	...	...	...	0.4
278	202	QS Hldgs	275	...	4.7	2.3	21.3
29	7	Ramars Group	16	-½	2.4	20.0	...
32½	10	Rhino Grp	29	+½	...	...	...
199	110	Sherwood Gp	160	...	...	1.9	15.4
113	54	Sears	102	-3	...	4.6	28.0
523	357	Smith WH 'A'	425	-15	13.4	4.2	14.8
29	13	Specialeyes	13½	...	...	...	...
219	87	Storehouse	210	-7	5.0	3.2	...
259	153	T & S Stores	189	-1	2.5	3.9	12.3
95	27	Tie Rack	53	-1	0.5	0.7	...
188	132	Time Products	188	...	7.5	5.3	18.4
86	47	Usher (Frank)	80	+3	...	8.3	7.8
38	23	Vivat	28	...	...	...	77.3
68	28	Wearwell	37	...	...	...	6.5
104	53	Wickes	92	-1	...	...	...
70	28	Wid of Leather	56	...	...	...	65.9
205	102½	Wyevale	160	+2	...	3.1	17.8
7	2½	Xtra-vision	2½	...	...	...	2.7

ELECTRICALS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
100	45	AB Elect	66	...	...	...	...
197	128	ACT Group	168	-1	4.5	3.6	16.5
231	195	Acal	223	...	...	3.5	18.7
74	6	Acorn Compe	57	+2	...	...	...
410	299	Admiral	410	...	4.8	1.6	18.6
133	94	Alba	116	+1	4.7	5.5	15.1
75	7	Alphameric	20½	...	...	...	...
44	19	Amstrad	24	-1	0.4	2.2	...
141	83	App Holo	126	...	...	...	...
22	12	Arlen	17	...	...	...	...
48	12	Asses	46½	+2½	...	...	...
292	218	Bssler Hunter	275	...	9.2	4.5	14.4
20	1¼	Bennett & Fountn	6	...	...	...	...
373	207	BICC	363	-2	19.2	7.1	21.2
505	314	BSkB	505	+5	9.2	2.5	19.4
4575	1150	Borland	1400	+50	...	...	...
280	208	Bowthorpe	279	-1	6.0	2.0	19.1
418½	305	BT	409½	+3	14.4	4.7	14.9
315	212	BT New	309½	+3	14.4	4.7	14.9
8	3	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	8	...	0.1	2.2	...
226	80	Burnfield	123	-5	...	8.2	17.7
731	480	Cable Wireless	705	-7	13.2	2.5	27.8
14½	4	Chloride	12	...	...	...	...
308	205	CMT Micros	240	...	...	2.4	16.5
116	62	Comptr People	83	...	5.4	...	10.7
6	3	Cranbrook	6	...	...	...	...
146	60½	Cray Elect	140½	+2	...	0.5	11.5
506	331	Delta	435	+1	14.0	4.3	17.2
293	148	Denmans Ele	283 †	+11	...	2.9	...
592	375	Domino	542	+8	7.2	1.8	...
54	41	Dowding Mills	54	...	2.5	6.2	17.8
1013	730	Dracke	948 †	...	...	1.3	23.1
377	233	Electrocomps	375	-1	7.0	2.5	20.3
545	286	El Data Prc	475	...	5.1	1.4	...
70	28	Electron House	70	...	2.3	4.5	21.0
25½	7	Emess	16	+1	1.0	...	...
520	292	Eurotherm	500	+1	8.0	2.1	...
116	51	FKI	114	+2	3.3	2.7	22.1
387	227	Farnell Elect	354	-2	5.8	2.2	19.3
40	18	Feedback	28	...	...	...	...
13	9½	Ferranti	11½	...	...	...	...
107	30	First Tech	107	+2	...	...	...
88	71	Forward Gp	88	+3	...	3.6	10.6
28½	10	Forward Tech	19	...	...	...	...
288	183	GEC	284	+1	9.6	4.5	15.0
227	102	Graseby	153	+1	10.9	9.5	15.3
57	38	Hilckers	39	...	...	1.7	12.7
453	395	Hoskyns Gp	453	...	2.4	0.7	-
135	65	INSTEM	85	...	...	6.6	5.4

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
399	245½	Abbey Ntl	368	-8½	10.5	3.8	12.7
196	154	Allied Irish	196	+2	...	6.1	11.2
197½	106	Ant New Z	131	-2	...	6.9	...
3512½	1906¼	Bankamerica	3450 †	-59½	...	...	...
200	141	Bk of Ireland	198	...	...	6.4	30.0
345	320	Bk Leumi UK	325	...	16.0	7.5	...
136	97	Bank Scotland	132	+1	4.3	4.4	20.8
444	274	Barclays	431	-2	21.1	6.5	...
6	1¼	Benchmark	2¼	...	...	...	...
204	28	Brown Shipley	51	+5	...	...	...
21	10	Carlisle	19½	...	...	...	...
430	295	Cater Allen	430	+2	26.0	8.1	...
101	61	Cattles	100	...	3.8	5.1	14.6
1995½	912¼	Chase Manh	1993¾	+43½	...	...	...
1743½	537½	Citicorp	1743¼	+50	...	...	...
290	205	Close Bros	289	-1	9.5	4.4	12.9
£106	8687½	Commerzbk	£106 †	+275	...	3.2	...
£281	£214	Deutsche Bk	£264	+400	...	2.2	...
86	13	First Nat Fin	84	...	...	...	...
1104	493	Fuji Bank Y	919	+38	...	0.5	56.2
395	230	Gerrard Nat	395	+3	21.0	7.1	...
570	258	HSBC	539	-7	...	3.7	22.1
577	313	HSBC HK	525	-3	...	3.8	21.5
292	202	Hambros	285	-2	13.8	6.5	12.6
355	308	Joseph (I)	353	...	15.8	6.0	...
113	54	King Shaxson	112	...	3.0	6.0	...
350	212	Kleinwort Ben	349	...	16.0	6.1	30.5
549	346	Lloyds	537	+5	16.7	4.1	18.2
74	40	Lon Scot Bk	74	...	3.0	5.6	...
351	258	Nat Aust Bk	333	...	...	6.1	11.6
459	251	Nat West	453	+1	17.5	5.2	62.6
747	418	Provident	743	...	23.0	4.5	17.0
45	25	Rea Bros	45	...	0.5	1.5	...
234½	137	Ryl Bk Scot	228	-1	8.8	5.1	...
1485	1063	Schroders	1485	...	18.0	1.6	17.3
672	364	Stand Chart	650	-7	20.0	4.1	16.8
170½	115	TSB	166	-2	6.4	5.2	-
200	38	Union Disc	107	+1	13.5	...	...
605	403	Warburg SG	576	+4	18.0	4.2	17.0
204	137	-do- 6% 'A'	198	+1	...	4.0	...
6556½	3087½	Wells Fargo	6556½	+56½	...	1.6	...
183	99	Westpac	131	+1	...	6.2	-
253	188	Wintrust	190	...	9.3	6.5	7.3

BREWERIES

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
712	536	Allied-Lyons	589	-8	20.0	4.5	13.7
656	472	Bass	588	-7	18.9	4.3	12.8
205	146	Boddington	202	...	6.6	4.4	12.8
400	243	Bulmer (HP)	364	+1	9.0	3.3	16.8
159	111	Burtonwd Brw	150	-1	4.4	4.0	20.9
291	194	Devenish (JA)	277	-1	7.8	3.8	-
107	68	Eldridge P 'A'	89	+1	...	4.9	23.6
84½	47	Fosters Brewing	60	...	...	2.3	-
440	340	Fullr Sm 'A'	355	...	...	2.5	14.9
518	360	Grand Met	480	-7	12.3	3.6	14.8
424½	280	Greenalls Grp	413	...	11.2	3.8	13.7
530	405	Greene King	527	+2	11.6	2.9	13.7
644	461	Guinness	482	-11	10.8	3.1	13.2
346	245	Hardy Hanson	277 †	...	7.9	3.8	15.4
145	113	Heavitree	113	...	3.0	3.6	15.7
105	78	-do- 'A' LV	78	...	...	5.2	10.9
305	191	Highland Distl	262	-1	6.0	3.1	17.4
48	21	Hoskins Brew	36	+2	...	...	25.9
335	264	Invergordn Dist	275	...	6.5	3.2	15.5
220	151	Macallan-Glen	180	-1	0.7	0.6	36.3
630	380	Marstn Marsn 'A'	419	...	...	2.8	13.3
720	515	Mansfield	680	+2	13.6	2.7	14.6
269	166	Marston Thmp	240	...	4.9	2.7	14.1
477	394	Matthew Clark	438	...	15.7	5.0	12.5
351	195	Merrydown W	300	...	...	2.8	21.7
493	320	Morland	485	...	8.4	2.3	19.3
10½	5½	Paramount	8½	...	...	2.1	14.6
1020	665	SA Breweries	810	-12	...	3.3	-
492	380	Scot & New	443	-3	16.1	4.8	12.1
200	145	Taunton Cider	184	+1	...	3.4	17.3
230	148	Vaux Group	228	+1	9.3	5.5	15.7
241	165	Wetherspoon JD	241	+2	...	2.7	19.5
499	347	Whitbread 'A'	425	-1	16.9	5.0	12.7
1436	1090	-do- 'B'	1095	...	16.9	2.1	30.8
640	510	Wolvrhmptn D	578	...	11.4	2.6	16.3
545	453	Young 'A'	513	...	14.5	3.8	22.4

BUILDING, ROADS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
95	60	Abbey	95	...	...	1.5	32.4
26	9	Albrighton	15	...	...	...	...
128	54	Allen	91	-1	...	7.3	10.8
182	53	Amec	74	+1	10.2	...	6.8
27	2½	Anglia Sec	8	...	...	...	...
192	85	Ashstead	178	...	4.1	3.1	23.9
151	100	Atwoods	130	-2	5.0	5.1	18.9
203	123	BPB Ind	195	-2	11.2	...	49.6
102	50	Baggeridge Brk	77	...	3.1	5.4	25.9
31	15	Bailey (Ben) Con	29	-1½	0.5	2.5	...
118	48	Barcom	90	+8	1.2	1.9	16.3
116	34	Barratt Devs	116	+2	2.0	2.3	12.9
345	193	Bellway	348	+2	11.5	4.4	19.1
30	14	Bellwinch	23	...	...	...	...
355	186	Berkeley Gp	351	+10	5.0	1.9	23.2
100	45	Bett Bros	45	...	...	...	1.8
89	27	Blockleys	41	...	3.3	...	40.7
284½	121	Blue Circle	226	+2	11.2	6.6	22.6
240	140½	Boot (Henry)	238	...	...	3.0	13.0
180	62	Breedon PLC	103	+1	4.6	6.0	19.0
132	66	Br Dredging	88	...	7.4	11.2	11.4
180	42	Brit Fittings	67	-1	5.3	...	...
116	60	Bryant	110	-1	4.8	5.8	21.7
80	38	CALA	63	...	2.3	4.9	...
240	187	CRH	224	+3	...	4.2	11.8
48	14	Cakebread Rby	42	...	...	...	...
82	18½	Costain	24½	-1½	4.7	...	...
143	51	Countryside	104	...	4.1	5.4	26.8
80	23	Crest Nicholson	46	...	0.0	...	...
58	14	Cussins	30	...	...	...	...
6	¼	Dunston	3	...	...	...	...
45	12	Edmund Hldgs	17	...	1.8	...	7.0
211	132	Epwin	180	...	...	4.9	14.8
54	23	Erith	35	...	2.0	...	...
267	220	Eve Group	265	...	...	4.9	9.5
88	25	Evered Bardon	45	+1	5.8	...	24.3
19	3	Explorum	5	...	...	...	...
135	68	Freeman Gp	96	+1	4.3	12.2	18.9
79	40	Galliford	47	...	...	...	...
98	95	Gibbs & Dandy	78	...	...	...	...
925	578	Gleeson (MJ)	708	...	12.7	2.4	10.4
114	62	Hewden-Stuart	96	...	3.1	4.4	20.0
63	28	Hewetson	38	+3	2.6	...	37.3
28	15	Hey & Croft	16 #	...	...	...	...
388	128	Heywd Wim	211	+2	12.5	7.9	19.4
106	39	Higgs & Hill	65	-5	8.0	...	0.6
59	23	How Gp	40	...	2.5	...	9.7
70	38	Howard Hldgs	39	-2	0.5	3.5	...
96	38	Ibstock Johnsen	48	...	6.0	...	...
38	14½	Jarvis	15½	...	0.5	...	...
240	109	Laing (J)	205	...	9.0	5.9	10.6
35	3¼	Lilley	7½ #	...	2.0	...	2.4
122	80	Ln Clydeside	80	...	4.5	7.8	-
36	4½	Lovell (YJ)	17½	...	...	...	6.1
205	180	Manders	273	+3	7.0	3.4	19.0
148	57	Marley	98	-½	4.2	5.7	24.7
97	47	Marshalls	64	...	10.4	21.4	...
155	101	Maunders (J)	125	...	4.9	5.4	11.3
219	76	McAlpine (A)	115	+7	10.3	...	8.0

ELECTRICITY

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
444	273	East Midlands	412 †	-3	17.1	5.5	7.9
439	265	Eastern Elect	416 †	-5	16.7	5.4	10.3
263	149	Hydro-Elect	251	+3	10.1	4.3	11.3
465	288	London Elect	439	-3	16.8	5.1	8.5
513	324	Manweb	486	-8	18.2	5.0	7.0
483	287	Midlands Elec	458 †	-7	17.2	5.0	8.6
490	295	Northern Elec	470 †	-4	18.5	5.3	7.0
494	298	Norweb	468 †	-3	17.7	5.0	8.8
247	142	Scottish Power	225 †	+½	10.1	4.6	11.0
475	297	Seeboard	458	-1	17.2	5.0	8.3
539	313	Sth Wales	492	-5	19.4	5.3	7.8
474	293	Sth Western	452 †	-6	17.4	5.1	8.1
457	270	Southern Elec	435	-2	16.6	5.1	8.6
511	331	Yorkshire Elec	480	-7	17.7	4.9	8.9
310½	188	National Powr	304 †	-1	9.1	4.0	10.0
312	186	PowerGen	310 †	+1	9.2	4.0	9.6

FINANCE, LAND

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
58	28	Aitken Hume	55	...	0.5	...	35.8
65	37½	BWD	62	...	...	6.5	8.7
124	23	Baltic Plc	45	...	4.3	...	3.9
453	299	Caledonia	437	...	14.4	4.4	16.8
1080	1050	Camellia	1200	...	22.0	3.0	10.1
290	203	Candover	253	...	9.5	5.0	20.9
91	48	Flextech	85	-1	...	...	8.6
186	103	Gowen	166	+9	...	8.4	4.8
135	97	Ivory Sime	128	...	...	6.5	13.5
6½	3½	LIT	4	...	...	...	...
165	7½	Lightship	12 #	...	...	...	0.6
163	110	Lon Fundings	161	+5	...	6.2	14.2
84	14	Manakin	72	+1	...	...	...
7	1½	Nat Home Loan	3½	+½	...	...	...
45	24	Newmarket	43	+1	...	...	...
260	179	Rathbone Bro	253	...	...	2.6	17.9
19½	9½	Rutland Tst	19	...	0.8	5.6	10.8
330	120	S & U	305	-4	...	3.6	11.0
59	34	Singer & Fried	57	...	2.5	5.8	12.5
863	575	Sothebys	825	...	...	4.6	...
93	73	SIP Capital	89	...	3.0	4.5	16.1

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1662½	1043¾	Amer Express	1512¼ #	-59½	...	...	...
233	149	Electra	204	+6	6.7	4.4	27.8
883	535	Henderson-Ad	883	+8	41.0	6.2	19.4
100	50	Invesco MIM	93	...	...	4.3	13.6
223	121	Jardine Strat	185	-4	...	3.6	9.0
176	100½	MAI	175	...	10.0	4.6	12.7
429	244	MAM	427	...	11.5	3.6	17.1
674	460	M & G	634	+4	20.0	4.0	17.9
133	81	Smith New Ct	130	-4	4.5	4.6	5.2
98	57	Sterling Tst	97 #	...	...	...	8.5
77	35	Trio Hldgs	74	-1	...	1.8	53.8

FOODS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
515	362	AB Food	485 †	-9	14.0	3.8	11.1
69	22½	ASDA Group	67½	+5	...	3.3	17.3
187	75	Acatos & Hutch	187	+9	6.5	4.7	10.6
83	31	Albert Fisher	70	-2	3.7	7.1	11.7
432	273	Argyll	401	-2	9.7	3.2	15.8
51	11	Ashley Group	24	-½	0.7	4.2	...
147	103	Assoc Fisheries	142	...	7.0	6.6	26.2
190	143	Banks (S G)	185	...	8.2	6.0	9.1
343	209	Barr (AG)	342 †	...	6.5	2.5	-
117	74	Bensons Crsps	78	...	...	4.9	8.3
137½	58	Berisford Intl	126	-1	...	...	...
490	312	Booker	421	-5	21.7	6.9	12.8
44	28	Borthwick	35	...	1.1	4.2	24.4
474	334	Brake Bros	441	-6	5.7	1.7	18.4
51	31	Budgen	44½	+1	...	...	15.1
499	412	Cadbury-Schw	468	-4	12.5	3.6	17.2
107	64	Carr Milling	89	+3	3.9	5.8	17.8
210	105	Clifford Fd 'A'	173	+5	11.5	8.9	8.2
186	140	Comsticks	183	...	...	5.5	13.5
38	8	Cullens	16½	-1	0.5	4.0	8.8
435	225	Dalepak	310	...	6.0	2.6	13.9
491	352	Dalgety	489	-1	19.5	5.3	16.2
54	27	Daniels S	30	...	0.2	1.1	32.8
132½	92½	Everest	124	...	...	3.8	12.8
295	234	Farepak	295	...	...	2.3	20.8
16	3	Farringford	8	...	...	...	...
95	53	Finlay (James)	85	...	...	4.1	6.5	15.9
93	68	Fyffes	91	+3	...	1.8	11.6
440	249	Geest	420	...	7.9	2.5	15.9
12	5	Globals	9½	-½	...	7.8	7.8
49	34	Grand Central	43 †	-1	1.1	3.6	...
180	81	Hazlewood Fds	166	+1	6.1	4.9	10.1
200	68	Hillsdown	147	-3	8.8	8.0	8.8
61	27	Hunter Saphir	48	...	2.5	...	...
672	472	Iceland Frozen	652	...	8.5	1.7	17.4
142	103	JLI Group	123	...	4.5	4.9	17.7
827	514	Kwik Save	820	+3	16.0	2.6	17.2
280½	169	Low (Wm)	261	...	8.4	4.3	12.6
74	29	Matthews (B)	55	...	4.5	...	11.6
33	9	Merchant Retail	16 †	...	1.1	10.0	38.2
177	83½	Morrison (W)	167	-3	...	0.5	26.2
515	318	Nichols (JN)	485	...	12.3	3.4	13.8
337½	215	Nitro Foods	274	-1	...	3.8	15.1
48	11	Nrthmbrn Fm	19	...	...	5.3	7.9
193	132	Nurdin Peack	180	...	5.5	4.1	12.2
226	78½	Park Foods	215	+3	3.2	2.0	28.5
155	45	Perkins Food	89	-1	4.3	6.4	7.7
301	130	RHM	280	-5	...	6.4	14.8
3½	1½	Regina Hlth	2	...	...	...	...
562	337	Sainsbury J	579	+7	8.7	2.0	21.6
61	35	Sentry Farm	45	...	...	3.8	8.2
340	175	Sims Food	217	+5	11.2	6.9	11.7
443	285	Tate & Lyle	395	-5	12.0	4.1	14.5
296	194½	Tesco	267	...	6.3	3.1	12.7
230	152	Thorntons	204	+2	3.6	2.4	19.0
138	83	Trencs	138	...	...	3.5	-
368	192	Unigate	322	-6	15.3	6.3	11.5
440	222	Utd Biscuits	367	-1	15.3	5.6	12.8
25	12	Usborne	22	...	0.4	2.4	13.5
357	205	Watson & Phil	333 †	+30	13.3	5.3	17.4

HOTELS, CATERERS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
23	16	Abrdn Sth Ho	16	...	...	...	...
95	52	City Centre Rest	86	+2	1.4	2.3	24.1
282	112	Forte	186	+6	9.9	7.1	...
240	94	Friendly Hotels	173	-1	5.5	4.2	13.9
12	5	Harmony Leis	8	...	...	...	...
267	126	Ladbroke	199	-2	11.1	7.5	16.4
70	37½	Mandarin Orntl	64	-1	...	4.9	18.4
92	26	Queens Moat	35	-1½	2.8	7.1	7.2
118	51½	-do- 7½% cvpr	97	-½	7.5	10.3	...
2½	¼	Regal Hotels	1¼	...	...	...	...
89½	16	Resort Hotels	43½	-1½	3.4	10.9	8.3
730	420	Savoy Hotel 'A'	720	+2	7.0	1.3	...
40	21	Simpsons Crm	36	...	...	...	...
48	23	Stakis	45	+4	...	1.4	-

INDUSTRIALS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
198	125	AAF Inds	186	...	...	5.4	9.8
616	460	AAH	578	-3	16.3	3.8	18.4
203	122	AIM	145	-2	6.5	6.0	8.9
136	76	APV	124	-3	5.4	5.8	23.4
165	50	ASW	128	+1	9.0	...	24.2
146	86	Adwest	146	...	7.0	6.4	20.8
35	5	Aerospace Eng	10½	...	1.0	...	6.2
468	253	Airsprung	467	...	7.5	2.1	13.0
115	38	Alcudra W	113	...	3.6	4.2	61.1
22	11½	Allied Radio	11½	-1	...	...	...
458	358	Alumasc	455	...	11.0	3.2	13.0
62	9	Alvis	31	+1	1.0	4.3	...
400	308	Amber Ind	395	...	17.0	5.2	10.6
33	13	Amberley Gp	20	...	...	6.7	...
160	123	Andrews Sykes	140	...	4.4	4.2	74.9
708	503	Antofagasta	708	...	...	2.7	17.3
41½	20	Armour	38	+½	1.4	5.2	11.2
168	123	Ash & Lacy	161	...	6.4	5.3	13.3
3½	1¼	Ass Br Eng	2½	...	0.0	2.4	...
516	300	Avon Rubber	516	+5	16.5	4.3	-
190	103	Assoc Nursg	190	+11	...	...	7.3
660	445	Alar Equip	640	+5	...	4.4	13.2
68	35	Ayrshire Metal	46	...	...	...	...
170	80	BBA	163	+1	7.5	6.1	21.0
53	24	BLP Group	28	...	...	...	...
417	49	BM Gp	50	-10	5.0	13.3	2.1
774	583	BOC	738	-9	23.2	4.2	16.2
79½	51½	BSG	74½	+1½	3.2	5.7	20.2
422	290	BSS Group	404	...	...	3.7	10.1
561	381	BTR	558	+½	16.5	3.9	19.6
206	115	BWI	204	...	6.7	4.4	22.5
70	26½	Babcock	35	+1	1.1	...	7.3
7½	3½	Bailey (CH)	5½	...	...	...	...
266	193	Baird (Wm)	295	+2	8.9	4.7	16.4
1037½	550	Barlow Rand	637½	+18½	...	6.0	3.3
45	7	Barrett (H)	7 #	...	2.0	...	16.2
62	37	Baynes (Charles)	54	...	1.3	3.3	17.2
35	10	Beauford	11	...	1.8	...	...
18	5	Beckenham	8	...	...	8.3	...
31	10	Bedford (W)	20	...	...	...	...
29½	13	Benson Group	22	...	0.1	0.6	20.6
650	444	Bespak	650 †	+4	9.0	1.8	20.3
181	109	Bibby (J)	125	...	0.7	11.0	6.9

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LEISURE

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
86½	2	Airbreak Leis	3½	...	...	...	0.7
337	172	Airtours	298	-3	7.2	3.2	10.6
90	18	Ald Leis	59	-1	4.7	10.7	12.9
243	145	Anglia TV	200	-1	...	5.3	18.0
217	135	Barr & W 'A'	199	...	10.0	6.7	9.9
1175	795	Boosey Hwks	1125	...	20.0	2.4	18.0
113	70	Border TV	94	...	...	3.9	12.1
16½	4	Brent Walker	10	+1½	...	...	...
15	2½	Buckingham Int	6½	...	2.1	...	1.5
448	200	Campari	281	...	...	5.3	7.6
226	126	Capital Radio	190	+2	5.2	3.7	22.1
818	468	Carlton Comm	777	-13	...	3.0	22.4
223	120	Castle Comms	172	...	...	6.6	19.4
1763	1080	Central TV	1763	+3	30.5	2.3	22.6
88	49	Chrysalis	78	...	...	...	...
590	405	Compass Gp	570	+4	12.3	2.9	16.0
380	275	Eurocamp	335	+4	9.7	4.0	-
1665	673	Euro Disney	800	-15	...	1.5	...
10	1	Euro Leisure	6	...	...	...	...
36	11	Ex-Lands	20	...	...	...	11.7
10½	1	Expedier	1½	...	...	...	...
448	110	Fairline Boats	280	-2	10.5	5.0	...
353	239	First Leisure	330	-1	6.1	2.5	...
342	280	GWR Gp	342	...	...	2.8	-
170	91	Grampian	163	...	5.5	4.5	11.5
6	5	Greenwich Comm	6	...	...	...	...
92	13	HTV Group	22	...	3.7	...	...
208	30	Hi-Tec Sports	74	+11	5.5	...	4.7
18½	2½	Kunick	5½	...	...	...	...
317	220	LWT CP	317	+1	5.9	2.5	15.4
377	260	Man Utd	371	...	18.0	6.5	12.8
123	44½	Owners Abrd	115	...	3.5	4.1	-
38½	19	The Pelican Gp	38½	+2½	...	3.5	13.2
75	50	Prism Leisure	75	+12	...	4.9	8.4
61	18	Quadrant Grp	19	...	4.0	...	2.9
319	274	Radio Clyde	314	...	...	3.6	24.6
177	125	Ramsdens (H)	135	-4	...	4.4	19.9
460	202½	Scot TV	460	...	...	2.3	20.6
66	40	Southern Radio	60	...	0.7	1.8	25.0
191	125	Stanley Leisure	178 †	...	...	3.1	15.0
13	4	Sunleigh	5½	...	...	...	...
195	135	Sunset & Vine	140	...	3.5	3.3	15.1
53	27	TSW	29 #	...	...	22.7	3.7
38	3½	TVS	38	...	...	...	3.2
383	130	Tanjong	383	...	...	...	72.1
200	134	Thames TV	179	...	7.5	5.6	5.1
118	75	Tottenhm Hot	88	...	...	...	4.3
75	38	Trans World	69	...	...	...	...
294	154	Ulster TV	294	...	...	7.5	3.4	20.4
50	16	Wembley	19	+2	1.8	...	...
18½	4	Whitegate	15½	...	...	...	...
191½	110	Yorkshire TV	133	+3	12.0	12.9	-
136	80	Zenith Gp	108	+3	8.0	10.3	10.5

INSURANCE

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1775	1025	Alex & Alex	1750	...	...	3.6	...
3825	2290	Am Gen	3793¾	-31¼	...	3.5	...
66	27	Archer (AJ)	31 †	...	4.4	18.9	15.1
168	83	Bradstock	147	...	5.1	4.7	-
1160	762	Britannic	1158	...	28.5	3.4	...
641	402	Com Union	622	+8	23.6	5.1	...
1325	900	Dom & Gen	1325	...	...	1.8	21.9
31	18	FAI	21	-1	...	...	...
605	356	Gen Accident	581	-3	26.7	6.1	...
188	108	GRE	170	-1	7.0	...	...
477	212	Heath C E	347	+9	16.0	6.1	20.4
188	104	Hogg Gp	177	-1	8.1	6.1	10.8
208	102	JIB Group	187	...	...	5.3	13.8
453	287	Legal & Gen	448	-2	18.8	5.6	...
914	557	Liberty Life	914	+25	...	4.8	22.3
459	295	Lloyds Abbey	459	+3	17.3	5.0	15.3
282	180	Lloyd Thomp	262	+4	5.6	2.8	19.3
315	203	Londn & Man	315	...	13.5	5.7	24.2
362	224	Lowndes Lmb	362	+3	12.6	4.6	14.4
6187½	3931¼	Marsh McLn	6031¼	-62½	...	2.8	...
154	94	Octel	94	...	...	7.1	6.9
81	30	PWS	63	+2	4.0	8.8	-
309	199	Prudential	303	-1	11.0	4.8	26.3
895	584	Refuge	895	...	29.0	4.3	40.1
294	118	Royal	276	-9	11.2	...	...
240	100	Sedgwick	174	+2	6.0	4.6	18.7
321	162	Steel Burrill	253	+15	13.2	7.0	16.0
252	53	Sturge Hldgs	65	...	8.2	16.5	6.0
358	214	Sun Alliance	331	-8	14.2	5.7	...
59	20	Trade Indemnty	59	...	...	...	...
269	165	Transatlantic	269	+2	...	5.9	18.8
560	305	Utd Friendly	560	+5	12.3	2.9	28.4
274	144	Willis Corroon	205	+5	13.2	8.6	23.0
21	14	Windsor	16	...	...	...	12.6

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1593	1218	Alliance	1588	-1	43.0	3.6	36.7
234	152	Amer Trust	232½	-½	4.8	2.8	49.2
316	229	Ang & O'seas	311	-2	6.4	2.6	46.6
136½	98½	BZW Conv	136½	+½	7.8	7.6	16.0
144	101	Bankers	141½	-1	3.4	3.2	39.9
269	210	Baring Tribne	269	+1	6.2	3.1	43.3
172	116	Berry Starq	139	...	2.0	1.9	47.0
100½	71½	Br Assets	100½	...	4.1	5.6	24.6
59	46½	Br Empire Sec	58½	...	0.8	2.0	59.4
17	8½	-do- Wnts	14	...	...	...	...
162	123	Br Inv	162	...	4.5	3.7	40.7
1540	1200	City & Comm	1530	...	...	...	...
166	125	Contl Asset	136	...	1.2	1.2	68.9
230	165	Derby Inc	182	-13	16.6	12.8	-
220	140	-do- Cap	210	-8	...	...	...
102	68	Drayton Asia	100	-2	0.7	0.9	...
96	59	-do- Blue Chip	68	...	8.4	17.2	7.3
53	26	-do- Eng Intl	41	...	1.2	3.9	60.1
91	61	-do- Far East	89	+1	0.6	0.9	...
100	56	-do- Korea	98	-1	...	...	...
602	473	Dunedin Inc G	595	...	25.4	5.7	24.1
527	407	-do- Wwde	526	-1	9.5	2.4	54.0
278	203	Dundee & Lon	233	...	12.0	6.9	21.5
61	34	EFM Inc Tst	48	...	4.8	13.5	8.6
54	40½	-do- Div Pf	53½	...	...	...	...
262	199	Edinburgh	258	...	8.0	4.2	21.5
149	107	Electric Gen	146	+1	3.1	2.8	46.5
85	65	English Scot	85	...	...	...	...
224	186	European Asset	211	...	...	3.2	30.4
104	68	Finsbury 'A'	88	...	3.0	4.5	28.3
266	160	Fleming Amer	266	...	1.2	0.6	...
395	302	-do- Claver	391	...	10.5	3.6	28.6
230	173	De Contl	227	...	2.8	1.6	...
162	119	-do- Eurp	154	...	4.5	3.0	34.6
222	157	-do- F East	221	...	1.5	0.9	...
271	198	-do- Fledg	264	+1	3.0	1.5	...
133	81	-do- Hi Inc	111	...	5.8	7.0	18.9
164	100	-do- Japan	146	-3	0.3	0.3	...
265	193½	-do- Merc	259	-4	6.7	3.4	37.1
224	165½	-do- O'seas	219	...	4.0	2.4	52.3
212	150	Foreign & Col	207	...	...	2.2	63.2
180	144	-do- Euroest	178	-½	1.2	0.9	...
96	71	-do- German	93	...	0.4	0.6	...
106	134	-do- Pacific	105	-1	1.7	1.2	...
129½	79	-do- Smaller	123	-½	...	2.0	62.3
205	121	GT Japan	153	+3	...	1.0	...
109	40	Genl Cons Cap	82	...	...	...	...
123	96	-do- Inc	116	+1	...	10.8	10.8
130	63	Govett Am Smlr	129	-1	...	...	...
196	128	-do- Oriental	191	+1	0.9	0.6	...
232	150	-do- Strategy	229	+2	6.7	4.1	30.6
348	265	Greenfriar	348	...	6.1	2.4	-
28	5	Gresham House	8	...	...	...	...
52	31	Independent Inv	52	...	...	...	...
129	95	Inv-Cap	128	...	0.5	1.3	...
95	67	IAS UK Smlr	83	-1	5.1	5.3	25.7
166	128	Kleinwort Chrt	160	-1	2.0	3.2	20.5
185	134½	-do- O'seas	183	-1	5.0	4.1	-
121	85	-do- Smlr	113	...	3.2	2.3	58.1
560	433	Law Debenture	555	-5	...	4.7	32.3
169	139½	Majedie	168	-1	...	4.3	29.1
237	176	Merchants	235 †	-1	...	3.8	32.5
4562½	2437½	Merrill Lynch	4418¾	-143¾	...	6.0	21.7
395	296	Monks Inv Tst	394	-1	6.7	2.2	53.0
111	81	Morg Gren Inc	110	...	3.4	4.2	20.1
26	13	Do Warrants	25	...	...	...	...

MINING

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
4112½	1800	Am Gold	2137½	+50	...	10.4	9.6
2237½	1000	Ang Am Coal	1100	+37½	...	9.3	4.7
2275	1012½	Ang Am	1362½	+25	...	5.6	8.5
13½	7	Anglo Pac Res	10½	...	...	...	...
110	33	Blyvoors	40	+2	...	17.5	1.9
35	11	Bracken	22	...	...	...	1.2
566	208	Buffels	281	+17	...	16.3	6.0
4½	1½	Bume	2	...	...	...	...
631	437	CRA	563	-19	...	3.2	-
38	9	Cliff Res	15	...	1.0	8.9	22.4
1662½	581¼	De Beers	956¼	+3½	...	...	7.8
125	37½	Deelkraal	45	...	...	14.9	2.2
45	7	Doornfontein	8½	...	...	...	...
759	388	Driefontein	442	...	...	8.4	7.3
375	120	Durban	141	...	...	...	...
121	39	E Rand Gold	51½	...	...	22.7	1.5
154	62	E Dagga	63	...	...	...	4.6
168	54	E Rand Prop	90	...	...	...	...
470	117	Elandsrand	126	...	...	11.1	-
535	272	FS Cons	372	+17	...	14.5	3.7
33	7	FS Dev	9	...	...	...	...
1491	606	GFSA	810	+29	...	5.5	11.3
5	4¼	Geevor Tin	4½	...	...	...	...
222	121	Gencor	137	+2	...	7.2	10.6
42	29½	GM Kalgoorli	30½	...	...	3.6	9.4
11	2	Greenwich R 'A'	5½	...	...	...	...
89	44	Grootvlei	55	...	...	21.6	-
368	78	Harmony	89	+3	...	...	...
281½	87	Hartles	99	+3	...	...	3.4
11	5	Inocoa	10	...	...	...	...
820	486	Impala Plat	507	+11	...	7.6	10.2
8	2	Kenmare Res	7½	...	...	...	...
795	292	Kinross	355	...	...	16.1	3.4
624	293	Kloof	384	+8	...	5.2	5.9
60	21½	Leslie	32	...	...	14.8	2.8
71	12	Loraine	15	+2	...	...	...
128	90½	MIM	96½	-5	...	2.4	44.1
874	599	Minorco	874	...	...	4.0	11.2
111	66	Nth Brkn Hill	93	-1	...	5.3	-
1201	598	Orange Free	810	+83	...	17.5	6.4
688	469	RTZ	668	+9	19.5	3.9	20.3
1287½	375	Rand Mines	450	...	...	14.4	1.9
230	75	Rand Min Prp	90	...	...	20.7	3.9
334	136	Randfontein	165	+4	...	11.7	2.2
221	106	Renison	134	+4	...	3.4	13.0
1312½	812½	Rustnbrg	937½	+25	...	5.5	13.0
410	183	St Helena	240	+9	...	11.1	-
1287½	475	Southvaal	537½	+25	...	12.2	-
60	17½	Stilfontein	36	...	...	21.2	-
183	43	Unisel	59	...	...	3.7	5.2
4000	1500	Vaal Reefs	2137½	+87½	...	12.0	-
324	154	Welkom	190	+8	...	19.4	5.2
99½	26	Western Areas	30	+2	...	...	...
2325	587½	Western Deep	700	+25	...	10.2	-
225	184	Wstrn Mining	184½	-5½	...	2.7	...
630	255	Winkels	347	+8	...	3.2	2.6
70	16	Zambia Copper	70	+3	...	...	...
45	18	Zandpan	18	...	...	...	5.0

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
400	328	Abbey Panels	233	...	...	...	...
125	90	Airflow Stream	120	...	0.1	0.1	18.1
123	55	Appleyard	95	...	7.8	10.9	70.1
215	130	Bentley Mtr	215	...	8.2	7.3	12.1
145	115	Bosman	132	...	6.0	6.1	35.9
319	100	Br Aerospace	235	+8	25.0	...	5.0
378	305	Caffyns	328	...	11.5	4.7	43.7
139	95	Central Mtrs	105	+1	...	5.2	-
48	15½	Cook (DC)	22	...	...	3.0	...
187	99	Cowie (T)	184½	-½	4.8	3.5	13.9
133	75	Dag Motors	93	...	5.7	8.2	11.0
128	85	Davnprt Vern	127	...	4.0	4.3	-
231	130	ERF	200	+30	4.0	...	...
251	163	FR Group	251	+1	6.6	3.6	12.0
3162½	1900	Ford Motor	3112½ #	-50	...	...	...
2556½	1681¼	General Mtr	2493¾	-31¼	...	2.0	...
96	43	Henlys	88	...	3.0	4.5	...
736	465	Honda Motor	696	-28	...	0.8	...
31	10	Jacks (Wm)	21	...	...	...	...
95	49	Jessups	77	+2	4.5	7.8	...
225	68	Kwik-Fit	113	...	3.3	4.0	11.2
301	175	Lex Service	300	...	10.0	4.4	...
128	74	Lookers	108	+3	6.2	8.0	-
153	77	Lucas	143	+2	7.0	6.5	...
258	169	Pendragon	240	+2	6.0	3.3	21.4
175	100	Perry Gp	113	-1	9.0	10.6	20.2
130	56	Quicks Group	130	...	3.0	3.1	24.0
176	89	Rolls-Royce	125	-7½	7.2	7.7	23.6
160	99	Vardy (Reg)	134	...	4.0	4.0	20.5
139	93	Westland	139	+1	4.2	4.1	12.3

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
113	73	Adscene	113	+7	4.0	4.7	16.9
390	315	Black (A&C)	330	...	13.0	5.3	19.7
578	398	Blenheim Gp	558	...	9.0	2.2	20.9
300	248	Bristol	294	-4	11.5	5.2	21.8
8300	5800	Daily Mail	7887½	...	130	2.2	17.8
8300	5800	Daily Mail 'A'	7887½	...	130	2.2	17.8
296	193	Dorling Kind	285	-4	...	1.4	27.2
343	224½	EMAP	343	+1	...	2.9	22.3
998	533	Euromoney Pb	938	...	29.5	4.2	-
273	155	Haynes Pub	273	+5	6.0	2.9	11.5
235	140	Headline	228	...	10.0	1.8	25.3
183	105	Home Counts	123	...	8.2	8.9	23.2
8½	2	Intl Bus Comm	3½	...	...	...	...
14½	6½	Int Cm & Data	6½	...	...	...	...
420	285	Independent	420	...	...	4.8	14.3
461	299	Johnstn Press	461	...	5.5	1.6	21.8
251	186	Mercl Bulletn	251	...	7.4	3.9	20.3
125	49	Mirror Gp	114	-1	...	...	10.8
1371	509½	News Corp	1310	+14	...	0.3	...
726	258	News Intl	716	+9	3.9	0.7	12.4
459½	297	Pearson	377	+8	...	4.1	17.7
580	340	Portsmth Sund	575	...	8.6	2.0	14.8
662	447	Reed Intl	659	...	10.0	3.2	21.8
126	64	Southnews	118	-5	...	1.7	34.8
115	28	Sterling Pubs	114	...	...	2.0	37.4
356	274	Telegraph	356	+2	...	3.7	14.1
815	565	Thomson Corp	715	...	25.2	4.7	12.1
347	222	Trinity Intl	334	+1	...	3.4	19.7
62	29	Unit Group	37	...	...	...	...
537	323	Utd Nwspaps	528	...	21.0	5.3	18.1

OILS, GAS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
18	6	Aberdeen Pet	12½	-½	...	...	12.8
19½	11½	Ann Energy	18½	+½	...	...	...
46	23	Arcon Intl	30	-1	...	...	...
53	27	Aus Oil & Gas	49	+2	...	...	...
200	20	Aviva Pet	37	...	...	...	...
48	8	Beverley	12	+½	0.6	...	...
195	105	Br Borneo	162	...	7.1	5.8	17.9
295	223	British Gas	284½	-5½	...	6.3	13.1
304	182	Br Petroleum	237½	-4	...	5.9	47.5
7	1	Bula Resources	1½	...	...	...	...
741	480	Burmah Castl	685	-11	24.0	4.7	15.7
79	21	Cairn Energy	38	...	...	...	...
246	164	Calor Gp	236	-1	12.0	6.8	15.4
10	0½	Caspari Oil	6½	...	...	...	...
80	20	Clyde Pet	39	-2	1.2	...	74.0
16½	10½	Edin Oil & Gas	10½	...	...	...	...
467	297	Enterprise	433	-5	15.7	4.8	30.8
105	25	Exp Co Louis	91	-3	...	...	...
23½	14½	Fairhaven Intl	16	...	...	1.3	7.9
69	34	Goal Pet	55	+2	1.2	3.0	10.4
31	5	Gt Western Res	28	...	...	...	...
146	77	Hardy O & G	117	+1	1.0	1.1	34.7
6½	1½	ICA Drilling	2½	...	...	...	...
36½	7½	Kelt Energy	22½	-1½	...	...	...
263	112	LASMO	135	-8	8.5	7.3	20.0
163	63	-do- Units	79	...	15.0	23.3	...
51	11	Mid Sea Res	19½	...	...	...	...
40½	27	Monument	34½	...	...	...	36.2
18½	5	New London	9	...	...	...	...
35½	17	Nth Sea Assets	23	...	0.7	4.3	6.0
37	25	Oil Search	28	+1	...	...	...
14	8	Petrox	12½	...	...	...	...
102	57	Pict Pet	100	...	...	...	13.0
31	10	Premier	29½	+2	...	...	11.3
106	40	Presidio	75	...	...	8.4	...
430	308	Ranger	313	...	...	1.5	...
5037½	4162½	Royal Dtch Fl	5375	+209½	...	5.4	15.5
4312½	3025	Schlumberger	3787½	...	...	2.0	...
59	41	Seafield	51	...	...	...	...
563	435	Shell	551	-2	30.9	5.1	22.2
206	130	Sunrise Eng Sv	197	...	...	...	...
19	8½	Teredo	9½	...	...	...	...
82	26	Triton Europe	36	...	...	...	8.1
172	131	Woodside	147	+1	...	2.5	...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
280	103	API	260	...	7.5	3.8	22.6
200	123½	Arjo Wiggins	184	+2	8.3	...	13.3
434	365	Abbott Mead	434	+1	8.4	2.6	21.8
3	½	Acsis Group	1½	...	...	...	...
128	15	Aegis Gp	21	...	5.8	...	7.0
193	105	Aspen Comms	190	+2	...	3.4	26.0
13	7	BBB Design	8½	...	...	...	...
318	180	Bemrose	318	...	11.7	4.9	16.2
80	23	Birkdale	24	-1	0.2	1.1	30.3
126	80	Bunzl	128	...	4.0	4.3	28.9
267	147	CIA Gp	264	...	...	1.9	17.4
51	36	Cty of Lona	50	...	...	9.1	10.5
40	1½	Clarke Hooper	1½	...	...	...	...
206	135	Cropper (James)	174	...	3.0	2.3	19.8
41	6	Crown Comm	6	...	...	...	...
80	30	Delyn Pckaging	56	...	1.4	3.5	11.1
140	78	Dolphin Pack	108	+11	4.5	5.6	14.4
74½	42	Dudley Jenkins	44	...	...	...	11.1
15	9½	Elswick	13½	...	0.2	...	11.2
68	38	Fairway Group	47	+1	...	8.9	12.5
285	211	Ferguson Intl	274	...	12.5	6.1	15.8
86	25	Filofax	85	...	...	0.6	21.1
48	6	Fitch	19	...	...	...	2.1
71	47	Gibbon Lyons	70	...	...	9.5	13.7
300	194	Gold Greenless	300	+12	8.3	3.7	22.4
53	32	Goodhead	33	...	0.5	2.0	64.9
160	32½	Humerprint	56	...	...	...	...
198	123	Jarvis Porter	193	+1	4.4	3.0	21.1
50	13	Lopex	25	...	...	...	11.4
283	133	More O'Ferrall	229	+6	13.2	7.7	14.2
64	27	NMC Group	64	+4	1.2	...	12.6
96	58	Osborne & Little	69	...	4.3	8.4	6.8
189	132	Quarto	176	...	5.2	4.8	10.1
343	231	St Ives Gp	330	...	5.2	2.3	21.9
245	115	Saatchi	170	+2	...	...	...
754	381	Sappi	412	-31	...	9.5	7.7
14½	1¼	Serif	12	...	...	...	...
43	3	Shandwick	3¼	+½	...	...	...
351	233	Smith David	331	+6	9.5	3.9	14.4
335	210	Smurfit (Jeff)	266	...	...	0.6	8.6
263	171	Stat-Plus	198	...	7.1	4.8	14.3
19½	10½	Taylor Nelson	19½	...	...	1.0	40.5
65	37	VTR	42	...	...	10.8	12.0
115	31	WPP	64	...	...	...	...
195	48	Wace	75	+2	8.2	14.7	8.3
221	158	Waddington (J)	218	...	7.9	4.8	16.5
573	301	Warmough	573	+3	10.5	2.4	25.0
4	¼	Waverley Cam	¼	...	...	...	...
6½	1½	Westport	6	...	...	...	21.5
39	12	Whitney Mcke	16	...	...	...	...
75	51	Wood (SW)	56	...	0.2	0.6	...

PROPERTY

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
3½	1½	Abaca Group	1½	...	...	...	...
86	28	Allied Lon	46	...	3.5	10.2	39.7
70	55	Arcadian	59	...	...	...	...
73	34	Asda	64	...	2.0	4.2	22.8
141	64	Avonside	89	...	...	8.7	7.2
2450	1887½	BCE	2312½	+187½	...	...	...
478	268	Bilton	419	-2	18.0	5.7	15.1
45	23	Bourne End	24	...	1.0	5.6	...
164	108	Bradford	164	+3	4.4	3.6	14.9
36	11	Bredero	20	...	...	...	1.9
275	110	Br Land	193	-1	6.3	4.4	17.8
188	108	Brixton	156	+2	8.1	6.9	11.9
55	44	Burford	48	...	0.9	2.8	23.5
125	88	Cap & Regnl	115	...	...	1.2	...
200	75	Cardiff Prop	130	...	2.4	2.7	-
433	103	Chesterfield	222	...	18.5	...	15.7
80	9	City Site Ests	14	-11	1.4	...	...
45	8	Clarke Nickolls	15	...	0.3	...	3.6
32	8	Clayform	12	...	...	...	...
880	785	Daejan	838	...	25.0	4.0	12.9
4½	¼	Dares Estates	1¼	...	...	...	...
7½	30	Debenham Twsn	65	...	2.5	5.1	24.8
10	1	De Morgan	8	...	...	...	...
135	76	Dencora	78	...	5.5	9.4	...
540	283	Derwent Hldgs	303	...	8.6	3.8	35.9
250	170	Estates Agency	187	...	3.0	2.1	17.1
19	6	Estates Gen	36	...	3.7	...	8.2
143	100	Evans Of Leeds	137	...	4.1	4.0	13.1
30	11	Five Oaks	14	...	...	...	...
55	28	Fletcher King	30 †	...	1.0	4.4	21.7
328	188	Frogmore	310	+11	15.0	6.5	16.2
125	51	Grainger	105	+1	5.2	6.9	-
182	84	Gr Portland	133	-2	10.0	10.0	13.2
114	6½	Greycoat	11½	...	5.2	...	...
129	63	HK Land	106	-3	...	4.8	17.8
45	19	Hambro Cntyw	41	-1	0.0	0.2	...
588	180	Hammerson	294	-4	10.0	4.5	10.5
503	165	-do- 'A'	269	-8	10.0	5.0	12.9
150	69	Helical Bar	137	...	4.0	3.9	...
80	20	Hemingway	22	...	...	...	...
175	87	Herring Baker	88	...	7.0	10.6	...
225	135	Jermyn	138	...	1.5	1.5	...
484	343	Land Sec	463	+2	21.7	6.3	14.1
82	62	Lon Merch Sec	79	...	3.8	6.4	12.6
3½	1½	Lon & Metro	2½	...	...	...	...
411	198	MEPC	341	+3	20.0	7.8	14.3
4½	3	McInerney A	6½	...	...	...	...
145	76	McKay Secs	110	...	6.7	8.4	10.3
20	5	Marldeath	5½	...	0.5	12.1	...
133	8	Merivale Mre	18	-1	1.0	7.4	...
5	5	Merlin Intl	5 #	...	...	...	...
46	27	Moorfield Est	32	...	...	0.4	...
1075	580	Mountview	805	...	18.0	3.0	8.2
9	2½	Mowat	2 #	...	...	...	...
137	101	Muckiow (A&J)	122	...	5.9	6.5	15.9
53	33	New Cavendish	50	+2	...	...	26.8
117	38	Olive Hldgs	38	...	9.0	...	5.8
30	3½	Oxney Est	8½	-½	0.1	2.4	2.4
103	8	Power Corp	10	...	...	...	1.0
111	54	Prop Security	97	...	3.7	5.2	19.0
122½	14½	Property Trust	22	+1	...	...	...
4½	¼	Raglan	2½	...	...	...	...
68	1½	Regalian	12½	-½	1.5	15.7	2.5
10½	3½	Rosehaugh	7 #	...	...	...	...
175	125	Rowlinson Secs	125	...	1.3	1.4	26.6
24	12	St Modwen Prp	21	...	0.5	3.5	12.6
43½	21	Savills	43½	...	...	...	...
34	18	Scot Met	41	...	1.5	4.9	...
62	39	Shaftesbury	58	...	...	...	...
10	2	Shield	10	...	...	...	...
26	11	Sinclair Gldsm	19	+1	0.5	3.5	...
248	83	Slough Estates	169	+1	8.1	6.5	9.6
78	36	Southend Prop	60	...	4.1	9.3	30.3
30	2½	Speyhawk	15½	...	...	...	...
39	8	Stanhope Prps	20	...	...	...	...
83	52	Town Centre	83	...	3.1	5.0	16.0
61	35	Trafford Park	53	+5	2.5	6.5	14.3
33	7	UK Land	19	...	...	...	...
7	4	Union Square	4	...	...	...	...
217	119	Warner	186	+3½	10.5	7.8	-
245	188	Warnford	188	...	7.2	5.2	12.9
8	1	Waterglade	6	...	...	...	...
91	23	Wates	41	...	3.7	12.1	10.4
44	17	Wood John De	41	...	...	...	...

SHOES, LEATHER

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
28	9	Automagic	12	...	...	...	...
99	42	Headlam	96	...	2.4	3.3	38.0
428	265	Lambert	390	+2	12.5	4.3	10.2
111	63	Pittard Garnar	88	...	1.5	2.3	11.7
41	18	Strong & Fisher	23	...	1.0	5.8	6.4
193	88	Stylo	148	...	2.5	2.3	...

TEXTILES

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
455	362	Allied Text	453	...	12.6	3.8	-
73	47	Beckman (A)	61	...	4.7	10.4	12.1
52	23	Bolton Gp	25	...	...	...	12.7
162	138	Br Mohair	143	...	8.5	7.9	11.3
114	30	Celestion	114	...	1.2	1.4	...
41	15	Charnwell	20	...	0.4	2.7	...
337	186½	Claremont Gn	308	+1	...	1.6	21.2
574	364	Courtauld Text	595	-16	13.0	3.1	16.4
241	160	Dawson	225	-1	9.0	5.3	21.9
39	17	Drummond	25	-1	1.5	...	7.7
60	17½	Dunkeld	32	...	...	...	...
73	60	Fauperie	71	+2	...	9.2	7.0
68	24	Foster (John)	28	...	0.5	2.4	...
142	84	Gaskell	85	...	8.5	...	...
163	99	Hicking Pntcst	163	+1	3.4	2.8	13.9
73	38	Jerome (S)	47	...	1.0	...	...
389	215	Lamont	289	...	...	5.5	14.2
560	308	Leeds	560	+11	11.0	2.6	18.0
41	15	Lister	21	-3	0.1	0.6	...
122	81	Lyles (S)	109	-1	4.9	6.0	12.4
85	53	Parkland 'A'	82	+4	2.0	3.3	...
88	63	Readicut	87½	...	3.4	5.2	17.4
71	30	SEET	38	...	...	...	...
91	67	Sirdar	83	...	5.1	8.3	14.4
51	29	Stirling Gp	44	...	1.6	5.0	18.3
59	31	Stoddard	44½	-½	2.6	7.9	11.0
312	198	Tomkinsons	290	+3	11.5	5.3	25.0
5½	3	West Trust	3½	...	8.9	...	...
320	160	Yorklyde	315	-1	9.7	4.2	14.7

TOBACCOS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1010	608	BAT	975	-12	33.0	4.6	25.8
669	480	Rothmans 'B'	612	-16	10.2	2.2	14.0

TRANSPORT

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
440	211	Assoc Br Ports	375	+2	8.0	2.8	...
816	531	BAA	780	-10	14.5	2.5	13.8
315	219	Br Airways	277½	+6½	10.1	4.9	7.4
182	45	Clarkson (H)	73	...	8.0	...	3.5
101	11	Davies Newman	23 #	...	...	...	...
488	293	Eurotunnel Uts	411	+1	...	...	...
88	44	Fisher (James)	44	...	3.5	...	12.3
140	70	Graig	138	...	4.5	4.4	...
203	147	IoM Steam	153	...	...	6.5	7.4
39	22	Jacobs (JI)	31	...	1.9	8.2	18.5
53	41	Lon O'Seas Frts	41	...	1.2	4.1	2.5
1512½	1237½	Manchstr Sh	1300	...	4.5	0.5	5.3
311	190	Mersey Docks	296	-3	6.0	2.7	16.4
210	168	Natl Express	204	-6	...	4.7	13.4
280	216	NFC	268	-2	6.5	3.3	20.2
357	170	Ocean Group	285	-7	14.3	6.7	12.9
63	31	Ocean Wilson	40	...	...	8.9	8.9
535	296½	P & O Dfd	547	-1	30.5	7.4	19.3
136	97	P & O 5 1/2%	130	+2	...	5.6	...
490	267	Powell Duffryn	486	+1	22.6	6.2	19.4
120	96	Seacon	120	...	...	4.7	8.5
59	23½	TIP Europe	26½	...	1.4	7.0	6.4
87	24	TNT	34	...	...	...	...
692	487½	Tibbet & Britn	692	+4	...	2.1	37.6
478	214	Tiphook	302	+3	17.3	6.4	7.2
307	208	TDG	280	...	9.5	4.5	16.8

WATER

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
502	308½	Anglian Water	474	-4	19.3	5.4	8.6
591	336	Northumbrian	566	-3	20.5	4.8	5.9
513	323	North West	467	-2	19.6	5.6	8.2
479	298	Severn Trent	458	-3	19.3	5.6	6.7
485	301	Sthrn Water	465	-4	19.5	5.6	8.2
1300	670	Sth Staffs	1265	...	40.2	4.2	8.2
524	306	South West	490	+2	21.7	5.9	7.4
518	324	Thames Water	477	-1	19.2	5.4	9.0
546	337	Welsh Water	516	-1	21.4	5.5	6.0
596	358½	Wessex Water	551 †	-6	...	4.7	7.4
547	336	Yorkshire W	522	+1½	19.5	5.0	8.5

Source: Finstat

◆ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; † Ex rights issue; § Ex all; ‡ Ex capital distribution; – Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

INFOTECH

Big Blue and the little meanies

Ten years after the first personal computers, IBM is beset by rivals and looks slow on its feet. Matthew May assesses its chances

If things had only gone a little differently there would have been celebrations at IBM UK's headquarters in Portsmouth this week. It marks the tenth anniversary since the company introduced the first personal computers to Britain, sparking off — as it did elsewhere in the world — what for once can genuinely be called a revolution in the way millions of people work.

The PC generated such a huge new market for IBM that the company's main worry at the time was whether it would be able to cope with the expansion fast enough. Ten years on, we know that IBM had such a good idea that it hatched competitors so fierce it just couldn't compete.

Instead IBM was known this week not for its clever creation of the PC market but as the company responsible for the world's biggest corporate loss of more than £3 billion in 1992.

Further ignominy followed as IBM shares fell following the disastrous financial results, while a few others in the computer industry rose. These included shares in Microsoft, a company whose initial success came only because of IBM's decision to use it to develop the operating system of the first PCs.

As Microsoft approached a market capitalisation of £18 billion, it temporarily took over from IBM (in stock market terms, at least) as the world's biggest computer company. David had not only beaten Goliath, it had turned into him.

This week IBM's purgatory continued: John Akers will step down as chief executive and the quarterly dividend is cut by 55 per cent. "It is the right time in IBM's business transformation to identify new leadership," said Mr Akers, who is also chairman of the company. Replacing him is expected to take up to three months.

For those left at IBM — and there are now 300,000 employees compared to a 1986 peak of more than 400,000 — poring over how and why it all went wrong is of little help. The show must go on, and it must emphasise the future. Yesterday IBM UK marked the tenth anniversary of the PC with the publication of a report, *New Horizons — the second decade of the personal computer*. It will be sent to thousands of business customers and includes a questionnaire on what they expect in the future, though it is no doubt aimed equally at reminding them that IBM is not giving up.

Despite the title, much of the report is taken up with looking back at the past ten years. IBM gives itself a pat on the back for creating a standard with the PC that "others could follow so easily".

True, but it certainly wasn't planned that way. IBM spent much of the mid and late 1980s gnashing its corporate teeth over how everyone else was not so much following IBM but making extremely successful and cheaper copies of its PCs.

> 'New products would arrive a year or so after they would have been a really good idea'

Even worse, when IBM decided it would not be caught out again and launched the PS/2 range — intended as more advanced but proprietary replacement that could not be so easily copied as the original PC — competitors just continued with machines that improved on the old standard and customers continued to buy millions of them.

PCs now account for nearly half the world's spending on computing, according to research firm Dataquest, while mainframes have dwindled to about 22 per cent. The proportion spent on PCs is bound to increase and IBM's plans to bounce back include making sure it is in on a PC boom that is being predicted for the consumer sector.

Paul Mugge, head of IBM's research and development laboratory in Boca Raton, Florida envisages new types of PC "taking a place in every house, car and handbag".

Within ten years he predicts palm-sized computers will be able to send and receive information around the globe and, more ambitously, he believes that computers capable of human conversation will become a reality.

IBM has often been derided for being safe, boring and technically unexciting, qualities that were once admired in the corporate world, where the main concern was to avoid any possibility of ending up with a "duff" product. No one ever got fired for buying IBM it was said and quite seriously.

It also meant that IBM often missed the boat — typically new products would arrive a year or so after they would have been a really good idea. Shipping is a favourite metaphor for those describing IBM's woes — a ship out of control, say the fiercest critics. IBM has been referred to variously as an aircraft carrier, oil tanker or battleship taking miles to change course while competitors in speedboats adjust almost instantly to changing conditions.

The company once nicknamed Big Blue will soon be Baby Blue, critics say; it will never be able to make the changes needed to be sufficiently competitive.

Yet IBM is still the biggest seller of personal computers in the world, with around 12 per cent of the market (though Apple is only just behind). And in mainframes IBM still has more than half the market. The nearest competitor, Japan's Fujitsu, is a distant second, with less than 10 per cent of the market. IBM is now the Microsoft of mainframes, say the industry wits.

Though the mainframe share of the market will continue to fall, analysts point to the provision of associated computer services as a possible bolthole for IBM. Areas such as facilities management can provide huge contracts, and profits. IBM recently signed up to take over and run most of McDonnell Douglas's computer operations for the next ten years — a service for which it is charging close to £2 billion.

IBM has also entered into numerous joint ventures — a sort of scattergun approach. It has deals with Polaroid to develop instant electronic photography, with Seiko for a wristwatch that can receive messages, and even with arch rival Apple to develop new types of PC software. Earlier this month IBM announced a joint venture with Blockbuster, a big US videostore chain, to produce a system that will give customers a virtually unlimited choice of videos or music.

Instead of each store holding a limited selection of tapes and discs they will be electronically transmitted from a central database, with a customer's copy being made on the spot.

The chances that all this activity will not throw up at least a few huge successes is remote. The question is whether IBM can adapt sufficently fast to identify which are the winners it has backed before its rivals do.



Record breakers: IBM's Olympic display could not reverse the world's biggest corporate loss

ONLINE

Japan lines

COMPUTER price wars may have slowed in most of the world but in overpriced Japan they are only just beginning. Dell Computer has announced that it will sell directly to customers in Japan's previously isolated and notoriously high-priced personal computer market.

NEC controls more than half the Japanese market and has announced price cuts in response to new lower-priced computers introduced by Compaq, IBM, Apple and other American PC manufacturers. NEC uses a unique proprietary system that is not compatible with the IBM PC design.

Screen query

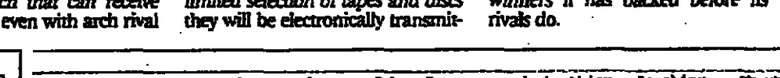
KENNETH Collins, who chairs the European Parliament's consumer protection committee, has called for an enquiry "at European level" to assess the risks to young people of video games after a series of reports about children suffering epilepsy fits after playing them. He urged the EC to enact "whatever measures are necessary".

Making millions

COMPAQ Computer, the world's fourth-largest personal computer manufacturer, has reported profits up by more than 60 per cent. In 1992 it made £140 million up from £86 million in 1991. Last year Compaq launched 80 computer models and doubled its number of sales outlets. In October it announced it would cut 10 per cent of its work force and embark on a low-price strategy to meet competition in the personal computer industry.

Down the tubes

THE Czech government has asked Sony to take a stake in a financially troubled state-run glass-maker. Sony has yet to make a decision. The company was negotiating with Glass Television Components as a possible supplier of cathode-ray tubes for television screens for Sony TV sets made in Europe.



Just the thing: from computerised lines of recorded speech, researchers can study simple words in their contexts

English as it is really spoke

A computer project aims to analyse the way we use everyday words

At the offices of Longman, the publishers, lexicographers are feeding into computers the conversations of a garrulous dinner lady from Hackney, a company director from Newcastle upon Tyne and a cockney cabinet maker with a penchant for saucy words.

The conversations, which should eventually cover the chatter between about 2,000 people, form part of the biggest study into spoken, as opposed to written, English.

Across Britain, 150 individuals are on the prowl with hidden microphones and cassettes to record the English language as it is spoken.

The research forms part of the British National Corpus, a project involving Longman, Oxford University Press and Lancaster University, which aims to collect millions of written and spoken English words. It is being partly funded by the trade and industry department.

Longman hopes the findings will help compilers of its dictionaries to list words and their meanings more accurately. "This kind of research would be impossible without computers," says Della Summers, director of dictionaries at Longman, based in Harlow, Essex.

Ms Summers says the essential difference between this and previous studies is the sheer volume of spoken words being collected. "We expect to have 10 million by the time we have finished, whereas others have about half a million," she says. The project, which began in 1991, should be finished next year.

People participating in the scheme are asked to switch on the recording machines during the day when at home, in the street or at work. Tapes are transcribed and the words fed into a computer for analysis by lexicographers.

The computers allow the researchers to examine word meanings, the context in which they appear and how often that word is spoken. For example, they can call up the word "mackerel" on to the computer screen along with the 20 words preceding and following it during a conversation. "They can look for how often expressions such as 'throw a sprat to catch a mackerel' come up, and so on," Ms Summers says.

So far two million spoken words have been collected made up of about 20,000 individual words or word forms. (watch is a word... watches, watched, etc, are word forms). The most popular... not surprisingly, are such words as "and", "er", "the", "it" and "you".

Some words are used more frequently in speech than in written English. The research indicates that the word "really" is spoken about six times more than it is written. Meanings vary too.

"If you look at the word 'like', you may intuitively think that the first and most frequent meaning is the verb and the equivalent of the French *amie*.. it is not," Ms Summers says. "It is actually the preposition, as in 'she walked like a duck'."

Most people believe the word "see" is most frequently used in relation to vision or using one's eyes. The recordings shows that in speech the word pops up most frequently as "I see", meaning to understand.

The preliminary findings also indicate that, unlike the written language, people from so-called lower social classes use the spoken language in very similar ways to members of the so-called middle and upper classes.

NICK NUTTALL

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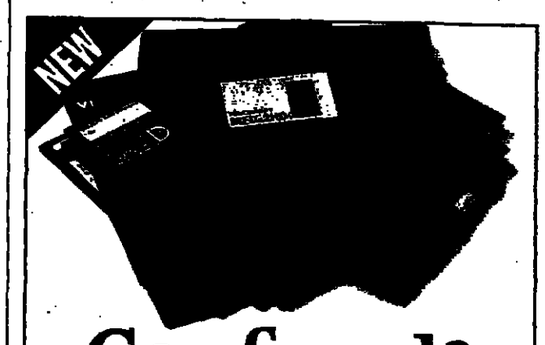
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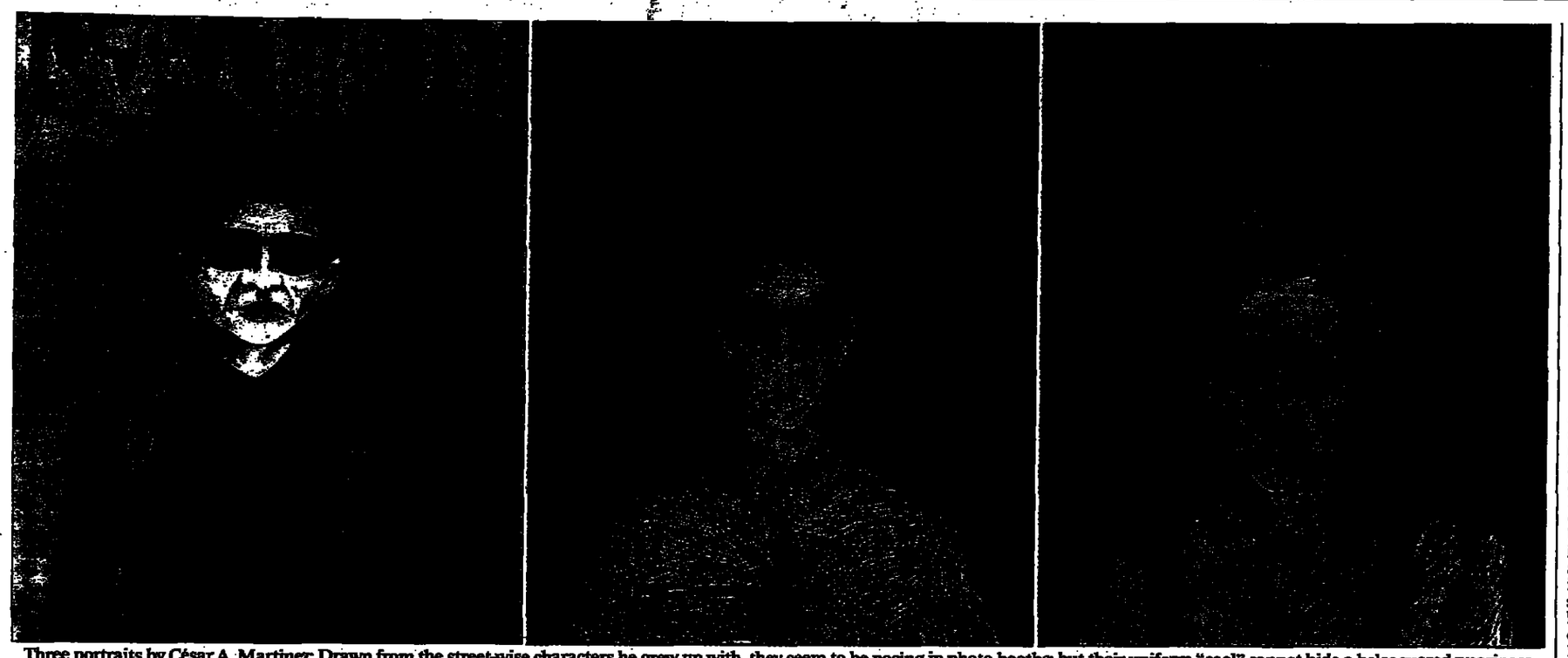
TELEVISION page 28
Lenny Henry: his new BBC 1 series Chef! has all the makings of a comedy success

ARTS

CINEMA page 29
Louis Malle: his latest film, Damage, released next week, was made against doctors' orders



GALLERIES: **Richard Cork** on the first British show of Chicano art, by Americans of Mexican descent



Three portraits by César A. Martinez: Drawn from the street-wise characters he grew up with, they seem to be posing in photo-booths; but their uniform "cool" cannot hide a beleaguered weariness

Postcards from the edges of America

They call the border a wall, an abyss, an umbilical cord, a war-zone and an open wound. The border, that is, between Mexico and the United States — the only territorial line dividing an affluent industrialised nation from the Third World. A border culture springs up there, like a scab struggling to form over a haemorrhage which can never, finally, be stemmed. And the boundary itself nags at the consciousness of American artists trying to make sense of their Mexican descent in the work they produce today.

These Chicanos, who acquired their name during the politicised 1960s as a way of defining their troubled identity, have a distinctive presence in the border states of the USA. Almost unknown in Britain until now, 11 of them have been brought over to Manchester's Cornerhouse Gallery from San Diego, Texas and Los Angeles. Together, they blast a hole in our wall of ignorance about a vigorous, but inevitably marginalised movement in modern American art.

Not that they should be seen as a tightly-knit group, united by a common manifesto and a shared way of seeing. The exhibition's layout stresses individuality rather than a collective harmony. Some rely on traditional painting and print-making, others on multi-media installations. Autobiographical references fuel a few of the contributions, while elsewhere a reliance on more reportorial viewpoints gives the show a documentary flavour.

Even at their most removed from private experience, though, the artists are clearly full of conflict, bewilderment and pain. Take the first room, where Richard Lou and Robert Sanchez have lined a narrow corridor with extracts from the *San Diego Union Tribune*. The clippings concentrate on stories of racism, not only in riot-torn areas of the USA but Europe as well. On the wall above them, a quotation from the Chicano writer and performance artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña confesses that "I feel, right now, that we are equidistant from Utopia and Armageddon."

But the stories below offer a more pessimistic verdict. The corridor leads into a darkened room where newspaper cuttings, always wearisome to read in galleries, give way to video monitors. Projecting from black walls, where drawings of closed doors frame rubber gloves heavy with sand, the screens relay interviews with workers about to cross the border.

If the malaise is laid bare here, by two artists who live on the San Diego/Tijuana border, their work is over-earnest and lacks any feeling of real human engagement. Next door, however, Max Aguilera-Hellweg focuses on the border people themselves. They stare at his camera, half solemn and half defiant. Sometimes they hold attributes, like the outsize box of "King O' Hearts" lettuces clasped as a talisman by one young man. More often, they appear shorn of all props and possessions. But the most powerful photograph shows a boy in baggy short trousers, posing solemnly with a jumbo-size tyre resting on his head like a secular halo.

> 'The artists are full of bewilderment and pain'

Perhaps he has salvaged the tyre from one of the catastrophic car crashes painted by Carlos Almaraz. Before his untimely death from Aids, he lived in Los Angeles — the largest Mexican city after Mexico City itself. But his vision has nothing in common with Hockney's hedonistic celebration of LA swimming-pools. Almaraz is closer in style to Edward Hopper, closing in on the bleakness of flyovers and the minuscule cars they carry. Instead of Hopper's stillness, though, Almaraz shows the vehicles plummeting from the freeways in flames.

Apocalypse is equally close at hand in the large, forceful paintings by Gronk. Reminiscent of Philip Guston at his most sinister, they show corpses heaped below an erupting volcano or flames shooting from a despoiled, soot-black landscape. The outspokenness of the paintings, and their size, suggests that Gronk also owes a debt to the great Mexican muralists. He also has an obsession with the pervasiveness of death.

Even when living people are depicted, in the paintings and prints of César Martinez, they look dour and defensive. His "Pachuco" series portrays tough-looking men from the border towns, armed with sunglasses, swept-back hair and down-turned mouths. Drawn from the street-wise characters Martinez grew up with in the 1950s, they all seem to be posing in photo-booths. But their uniform adoption of "cool" cannot altogether hide a beleaguered weariness.

A similar aura of siege conditions gives Patssi Valdez's canvases their unease. Surrounded by funereal black borders painted directly on the wall, they show interiors where Mexican customs are defiantly preserved in Los Angeles houses. Whenever windows are shown, though, they hint at conflagrations beyond. And within the rooms, dining-tables become transformed into battlegrounds. Candle flames are blown by winds from an unknown source, while wine glasses teeter and chairs sway.

The domestic altars sometimes glimpsed in the background of her paintings come to the fore elsewhere in the show. For Amalia Mesa-Bains is preoccupied with this feature of the Chicano home, and her melancholy installation uses it to meditate on displacement. Dominated by a battered chest-of-drawers, the work seems stranded in no man's land. The bottom drawers are open, and crammed with earth which spills across the floor near by.

Pot-pourri is scattered there, too, filling the air with unexpected perfume. But its sweetness only accentuates the bitter flavour of a work displayed against a paint-spattered backdrop. Superfluously, words such as "psychic destruction" and "flux" have been inscribed there.

For Celia Muñoz, who grew up in the border town of El Paso, Texas, survival lies with the unions. Her wall-painting is festooned with the logos of women's unions, and they are contrasted with the images of Carmen Miranda on the opposite wall. With her face removed, this Hollywood stereotype is reduced to a bundle of outrageous costumes and the familiar, fruit-heavy headdress. Exotic entertainment is over-schematically opposed to workers' solidarity, and Muñoz's contribution lacks the strong undertow of private feeling which gives Mesa-Bains her power.

● Sin Frontera: Chicano Arts from the Border States of the US *at the Manchester Cornerhouse (061-228 7621) until March 14*

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

● **SOL LEWITT — DRAWINGS 1958-1992:** The reputation is fairly intimidating: not only the most famous American Minimalist, but inventor of the term Conceptual Art. Lewitt seems to combine in himself most of the things traditionalists most distrust. However, his works on paper are very approachable. Although in some of the earlier examples he uses photographs and collage, about 350 of them show his exquisitely sensitive response to colour and texture in pencil, ink and gouache.
Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 722733). Tues-Sat 10am-6pm (Thurs to 9pm). Sun 2-6pm, until March 28.

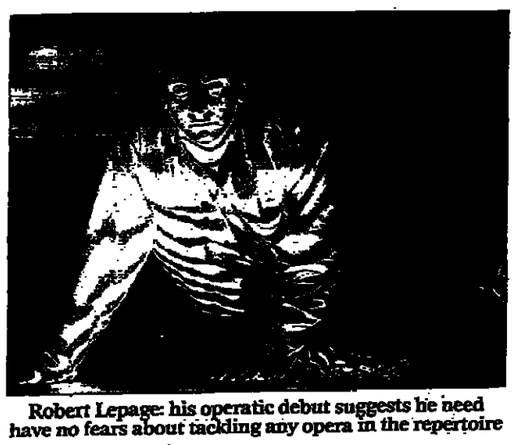
● **LESLIE GIBSON:** Though Gibson (1910-1969) worked mainly in London and as head of the Stapleford Studio school near Salisbury, he was born in Newcastle, which is no doubt the excuse for labelling this show, "A Northern Artist Rediscovered". At least he is well worth rediscovering: a quiet traditionalist, he was happy in landscape, still-life and atmospheric scenes of everyday country life. He was also a brilliant draughtsman and printmaker.
Hatton Gallery, The Quadrangle, Newcastle University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091-222 6057). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm, until February 27.

● **DECLARATIONS OF WAR:** Even when people realise that the Imperial War Museum has a very extensive collection of art that the most committed pacifist could hardly fail to respond to, they seldom think of it as a collector and patron of contemporary art. This touring show underlines that role in the museum's activities: everything in it has been not only collected but made since 1980. The artists, who include Gilbert and George, Michael Sandle, Peter Howson, Stephen McKenna and Jock McFadyen, are seen responding to emergencies in the Falklands, the Gulf and of course Ireland. All are unexpectedly distinguished.
Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (0223 352124). Tues-Sat 12.30-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, until February 28.

● **REG GAMMON:** Possibly our oldest practising painter, Gammon paints away every day with undiminished energy, evoking from his own experiences these richly, almost expressionistically coloured scenes of peasant life in Ireland, Scotland and Brittany. The youthfulness and vigour bely the artist's 99 years.
New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Road, Barnes, SW13 (081-748 8850) Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm. Until February 27.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Overture to fresh success



Robert Lepage: his operatic debut suggests he need have no fears about tackling any opera in the repertoire

John Russell Taylor reports from Canada on the impressive and long-awaited operatic debut of director Robert Lepage

For several years now, the Canadian theatre director Robert Lepage has been circling round opera. He has had many offers, including one to direct the complete *Ring* with which Toronto's new opera house was supposed to open. However, he refused even before the building had been cancelled, feeling that he would like to ease into opera with something smaller and less ambitious.

Small the works in his debut double-bill for the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto undeniably are, but unambitious? Surely no other director would see staging Bartók's two-hander *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* and *Erwartung*, Schoenberg's monodrama, as easing into the medium.

Lepage has risen brilliantly to both challenges. They are staged in basically the same setting, by Michael Levine, which places the action within a literal gold frame, and in that a sharply raked acting area matching the forced perspective of the walls.

In the Bartók the wall on the left is pierced by the seven fatal doors; in the Schoenberg the left wall vanishes into darkness, and all that may be picked out in the gloom is the right wall, which proves able to bulge into menacing shapes, to spew out phantasmal characters at will.

The staging of *Bluebeard's Castle* is deliberately severe and untricky. For the most part all Victor Braun and Jane Gilbert have to do is to stand there and sing, which they do very expressively, in Hungarian. And much of the score's most expressive music is left to the orchestra, magisterially directed by Richard Bradshaw.

Erwartung is something else entirely. At the beginning it seems that Lepage is taking on behalf of the audience decisions they might like to have taken for themselves. The solitary character is first glimpsed in a straitjacket, with a shadowy white-coated figure, vaguely resembling pictures of Freud, sitting taking notes in the background: we are listening along with her psychiatrist to a woman's demented ramblings.

But any fears that this may explain away too much are rapidly put to flight by the sheer imaginative force of Lepage's invention. Rebecca Blankenship not only has the formidable vocal line under control, but also negotiates the lightning transitions from terror to tranquillity, passion to burnt-out resignation, with delicacy and conviction.

The production is full of the unmistakable Lepage magic. There is the terrifying moment when the wall first starts to come to life, electrifyingly sprouting above the woman's head into something unnameable but clearly dangerous. There is the section in the middle where she is tormenting herself with images of her lover's infidelities, and the male dancer who represents her sexual fantasies rolls naked down the sharply raked stage like a tide retreating at her feet. On this showing Lepage need have no hesitation in undertaking *The Ring*.

THE TIMES
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Dew drop means Duncan does well

ARTS BRIEFING

THE Royal Opera had planned a new *Magic Flute* next season to be produced by John Dew. A degree of rethinking took place after last season's *Les Huguenots* debacle — Dew's contribution was not generally admired — and the company was left with a contracted and expensive cast and no production. A solution has now been found: Martin Duncan's recent staging for Scottish Opera will be moved down to Bow Street to save the day.

● THE Royal Academy's annual report shows that more than one million people were drawn to Burlington House to view the 1991-92 programme; the biggest crowds came to see the Pop Art show and the Alfred Sisley retrospective. The academy has also announced its 1992-93 programme: "Georges Rouault: The Early Years, 1903-1920" will open in early March; "The Impressionist and the City: Pissarro's Series Paintings" follows the summer exhibition; and "American Art in the Twentieth Century" opens in September.
The academy was also able to announce a coup: the recently "discovered" Modigliani drawings will be on show in London in January 1994. Meanwhile, Roger de Grey, the RA president, has launched an appeal to raise £7.8 million for the restoration and improvement of the 19th-century main galleries.

Discordant note

FEW classic films have reaped as much profit on video as Disney's *Fantasia*: since its release in 1991, earnings have reached some $220 million. Just as well, since that is roughly the sum that Stravinsky's music publishers, Boosey & Hawkes, are requesting in damages. They argue that the agreement made by Stravinsky and Disney in 1939 covered the use of his score in a cinema film (for a fee of $5,000). There was no mention in the licensing documents of a video cassette, which had not been invented.
Boosey's suit, filed in New York last week, should please Stravinsky's ghost, for he always hated the tabloid edition of the *Rite* that Disney devised. The pictorial element (volcanic eruptions, battling dinosaurs) he considered an "imbecility", while his word for the soundtrack orchestra's performance was "execrable". Maybe Disney should brace themselves for damage claims from the rest of the *Fantasia* team: Beethoven, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Dukas, Ponchielli, Mussorgsky and Schubert.

Last chance . . .

AT FIRST Ian Judge's revival of *The Comedy of Errors* looks as if it has been custom-designed by dour Brecht and bleak Bond. But then the production sweeps us into the world of Chirico, Dali and Disney for what, thanks to Des Barrit's ability to play two Shakespearean twins in markedly different ways, turns out to be a gloriously celebratory, imaginative evening. Last chance to see what is generally regarded as one of the Royal Shakespeare Company's finest recent efforts is at the Barbican Theatre (071-638 8891) tonight at 7.15pm and tomorrow, 2pm and 7.15pm.



WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

LONDON

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY: The Royal Ballet's signature work returns to the repertoire after an absence of six years. This timely revival comes in Tchaikovsky's centenary year
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

STIFFELIO: Verdi's stirring melodrama of a Protestant clergyman and his adulterous wife is triumphantly staged at Covent Garden under the reliable hands of director Elijah Moshinsky and designer Michael Yeargan, with Sir Edward Downes in the pit. José Carreras takes the title role
Royal Opera House (as above), tonight, 7.30pm

JOHN MARTYN: The singer-songwriter, who produced some classic albums in the 1970s, is on the road to promote *Couldn't Love You More*, an impressive collection of revitalised numbers from his repertoire
Town and Country Club, Kilburn High Road (071-284 0303), tonight, 7pm.

SAM RIVERS: The American pianist and tenor sax player has explored most avenues of jazz music from blues to free form. He plays here with his trio
Jazz Café, Parkway, NW1 (071-284 4358), tonight, tomorrow, 7pm

AUSTRALIA DAY GALA CONCERT: José Carreras, who is not Australian, joins Sir Charles Mackerras, Yvonne Kenny, John Williams, Jonathan Summers, Leslie Howard and Joan Carden, who are, for a gala musical celebration. Proceeds go to the Australian Musical Foundation and the Jose Carreras International Leukaemia Foundation (tickets £14-£75)
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066), Sun, 7.30pm

GIDON KREMER: The virtuoso violinist gives a recital of sonatas by Schulhoff (No 2) and Bartók (No 2), Schubert's *Rondo Brillant*, Dvořák's *Four Romantic Pieces* and Liszt's Grand Duo Concertant on Lafont's *Le Marin*. Pianist Oleg Maisenberg accompanies him
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

REGIONAL

BEDFORD: Prizewinning verse chiller **The Ballad of the Limehouse Rat**, written and performed by Tim Newton, a mysterious rat-catcher pursues an evil giant rodent through the dark places of Victorian London
Bowen West Community Theatre, Lansdowne Road (0234 219333), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm

BIRMINGHAM: Ton Koopman's highly respected **Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra** *performs Bach's* Brandenburg Concertos (Nos 2-6) in Birmingham and at the chapel of King's College, Cambridge (see below)
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (021-212 3333), Sun, 2.30pm.

CAMBRIDGE: (see Birmingham)
Arts Theatre, 6 St Edward's Passage (0223 352000), tomorrow, 8pm.

DERBY: Arc Dance Company presents the world premiere of *Anbc*, Kim Brandstrup's new work, based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. This is the first world premiere of the Year of Dance, the East Midlands-based festival.
Playhouse, Eagle Centre (0332 363275), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

GLASGOW: *Ireland's most commercially successful group* **The Saw Doctors** begins a nationwide tour. Their twangy guitar, Hammond organ, and rootsy mandolin-based music have built up considerable appeal on this side of the Irish Sea.
Barrowlands (041-552 4601), tomorrow, 7.30pm

LEEDS: Incredibly, the first British production for 50 years of Eugene O'Neill's **All God's Chillun Got Wings** about a mixed race couple in jazz-age New York. A pioneering work with a musical backdrop of a 100-voice choir.
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill Mount (0532 442111). Preview today, 8pm, opens Mon, 7.30pm; then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, until Feb 27.

LEEDS: The **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra** together with the Leeds Festival Chorus gives the world premiere of Russian composer Dmitri Smirnov's *Song of Liberty*, a large-scale choral work to a setting of texts by poet William Blake. Jerzy Maksymiuk also conducts Mozart's Mass in C minor. With soloists Lynne Dawson, Louise Winter, Adrian Thompson, Michael George.
Town Hall, The Headrow (0532 476962), tomorrow, 7.30pm

LEICESTER: Jiri Kylian's admired company **NDT3**, which grew out of the Nederlands Dans Theater, has created an individual dance language for performers now in their forties and fifties, *utilising virtuoso talent and experience that often goes to waste* through unnecessary retirement. Kylian, Mats Ek, Hans van Manen, Maguy Marin and Ohad Naharin have created ballets specially for the group of four gifted dancers.
Phoenix Arts Centre, Newarke Street (0533 554854), tonight, 7.30pm.

NOTTINGHAM: Kenneth Haigh as the tramp currying favour with Michael Praed and Jonathan Lermit in Pinter's **The Caretaker**. A play that has not lost its power to fascinate.
Playhouse, East Circus Street (0602 419419). Opens tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat (Feb 13), 2.30pm, until Feb 13

STAFFORD: *Eight dancers of the* Birmingham Royal Ballet offer a colourful showcase of British choreography in **Springboard**, a project designed to enlighten audiences unfamiliar with classical ballet
Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street (0785 54653), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **BARNUM:** Agreeable showbiz musical, with Paul Nicholas walking the high wire. *Bouncy numbers by* Cy Coleman and Michael Stewart
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 8845). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 140mins.

■ **CAROUSEL:** Joanna Riding and Michael Hayden star in a triumphant revival of the Rodgers & Hammerstein fairground musical.
National (Lyttelton), *South Bank*, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.15pm. 180mins.

■ **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS:** Ian Judge's sublimely funny production, with award-winning Desmond Barrit playing both portly twins.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat *tomorrow, 2pm. 145mins*

◪ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC:** Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is *too bustling to give enough room to the* full poignancy of his fate.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, *mats Wed* and Sat, 2.30pm. 180mins.

◪ **THE DEEP BLUE SEA:** Rattigan's play on infatuation gets into high gear. Strong performances by Penelope Wilton and Linus Roache; exemplary production by Karel Reisz.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 140mins.

◪ **HAY FEVER:** Very funny performances (not always where you expect) in Coward's excellent comedy
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats. Thurs, *Sat, 3pm. 150mins*

◪ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Wilde's "insider dealing" melodrama. Some dated assumptions but stylishly done
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 165mins

◪ **IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY:** Larks in the hospital common room; matron outraged, doctors flummoxed. Ray Cooney farce with lots of laughs.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm. *135mins.*

□ **KING BABY:** The miseries of alcoholism and how only religion can help, says author James Robson. Earnest stuff.
The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, tomorrow, Mon, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm. 180mins.

◪ **KING LEAR:** Solid, respectable performance by Tom Wilkinson in a low-powered staging by Max Stafford-Clark. With Saskia Reeves, Hugh Ross
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 *(071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat* Sat, 2.30pm. 195mins

□ **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN:** Tremendously glossy production of the *Kander & Ebb musical. It coarsens the* values of Manuel Puig's novel but Chita Rivera makes a striking vamp.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats *Wed, Sat, 3pm. 160mins.*

□ **LOST IN YONKERS:** Terrific performance by Rosemary Harris in a Neil Simon comedy more weighty than *usual. Maureen Lipman gives good* value as a loopy aunt.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 160mins

◪ **OUR SONG:** Peter O'Toole in Keith Waterhouse's play about a menopausal male's infatuation with a young woman. Neatly done though we only hear the man's point of view
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. 135mins

◪ **THE PRISONER OF ZENDA:** David Haig plays the dashing Rudolph Rassendyll in the best of all romantic adventures, staged with exuberance.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat, 2.30pm. 150mins.

◪ **THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE:** Alison Steadman and Jane Horrocks in Jim Cartwright's play about a shy girl escaping her raucous mother. Ingenious but incredible
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 150mins

□ **TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT:** Giles Havergal, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in a marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). *Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat,* 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 140mins.

LONG RUNNERS: □ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (071-867 1044) □ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) ... ◪ **Cats**: New London (071-405 0072) ... □ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Arts Theatre (071-836 2132) ... □ **Dancing at Lughnasa**: Garrick (071-494 5085) ... □ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (071-494 5070) ... ◪ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (071-494 5045) ... ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**: Palladium (071-494 5037) ... ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (071-434 0909) ... ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) ... □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (071-836 1443) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) ... ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) ... ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information from SWET.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

ANNABELLE PARTAGEE (18): Paris ballet student hesitates between lovers. Ferociously dull sexual drama. Writer-director Francesca Comencini, with Delphine Zingg, François Marthouret.
MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561)

◆ **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA** (18): Gary Oldman as the Transylvanian legend, preying on Victorian London. Visually audacious, but cold to the touch. Francis Coppola directs. With Keanu Reeves, Winona Ryder.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **Camden Plaza** (071-485 2443) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

TRIPLE BOGEY ON A PAR FIVE HOLE: Writer gets entangled with eccentric siblings on yacht circling Manhattan. Slim pickings from independent film-maker Amos Poe
ICA (071-930 3647)

CURRENT

CHAPLIN (12): A skilled impersonation by Robert Downey Jr, but Richard Attenborough's bitty biographical epic never penetrates far inside the man or his career
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

L.627 (15): The Paris police drugs squad's daily routine: stake-outs, violence, paperwork. Vividly filmed by Bertrand Tavernier, though too long for its material. Starring Didier Bezace, Nils Tavernier.
Renoir (071-837 8402)

NIGHT AND THE CITY (15): Small-time lawyer Robert De Niro turns boxing promoter. Restless, disappointing remake of the 1950 classic. With Jessica Lange; director, Irwin Winkler
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353)

◆ **RESERVOIR DOGS** (18): *A jewel* robbery goes haywire. Quirky tale of betrayal, loyalty and violence from bright new talent Quentin Tarantino. Stars Harvey Keitel, Tim Roth.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

◆ **SARAFINA!** (15): The Soweto school riots, plus songs. South African hit musical, exuberantly filmed with Leleti Khumalo (the original star) and Whoopi Goldberg. Darrell James Roodt directs.
Curzon West End (071-439 4805)

SCHTONK! (15): Boisterous comedy based on the Hitler diaries scandal. *Muted as satire, but enjoyably plush.* With Götz George, Uwe Ochsenknecht; director, Helmut Dietl.
Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743) (071-439 4470) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

SWEET EMMA, DEAR BOBE (18): István Szabó's piercing portrait of disordered life in post-communist Budapest: his best film in years; strong performance from Johanna Ter Steege
Metro (071-437 0757).

◆ **SINGLES** (12): The love problems of Seattle twentysomethings. Engaging, *upbeat entertainment, nicely portrayed* (Kyra Sedgwick, Campbell Scott, Matt Dillon). Writer-director Cameron Crowe
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-379 7025) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772)

TOUS LES MATINS DU MONDE (12): Wonderful, melancholy portrait of French Baroque musicians Sainte-Colombe (Jean-Pierre Marielle) and his pupil Marin Marais (Gérard and Guillaume Depardieu), director, Alain Corneau.
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865) **Gate** (071-727 4043) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366)

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** gives a cautious welcome to a new young playwright

MARILYN KINGWILL



Clodagh O'Donoghue, Paul Hickey (left) and Peter Hanly

Only tentative but talented

The Ash Fire
Tricycle, Kilburn

In Brendan Behan's *The Hostage* a West Indian parades across the stage with a placard reading "keep Ireland black". Perhaps one of the Jewish-Irish characters in Gavin Kostick's play should try something similar. That would bring a little pep and fun to the increasingly glum proceedings, and also bring out what the programme tells us, that their community is not relatively much larger than, say, the Angolan quarter of Milton Keynes: 2,000 souls now, and some 5,000 in the 1930s, when *The Ash Fire* is set.

That a community is small does not, of course, make it dramatically unrewarding. Quite the contrary. For instance, some of Ireland's Jews reputedly landed up there because unscrupulous sea-captains told them that Cork was actually New York. Indeed, there is a suggestion in *The Ash Fire* — like other things in the play, not very *concrete or clear — that something of* the sort has happened to the two young men who suddenly take up residence in their married brother's flat. Imagine the play that might be written about emigrants from Poland who gradually become aware that what they were worshipping as the *Statue of Liberty* is actually a big, bronze de Valera. Imagine what Behan would have made of their mental chaos.

But Gavin Kostick, the Jewish Irishman who wrote *The Ash Fire*, comes up with nothing so offbeat. Rather, he offers us a worthy, rather solid piece about the erosion of culture and the collapse of traditions when they are transplanted to alien territory. The play happens to occur in Dublin, and two of the characters happen to be Irishwomen. But nothing original or important would be lost if it were set in *Boston or* Reykjavik or the Isle of Wight.

Nat (Peter Hanly), an immigrant carpenter, shares a *virtuous*, God-fearing life with his wife Cissy (Kathy Downes) and a baby who, oddly, does not change *size during* the 13 months that Jim Culleton's production purportedly lasts. But his brothers soon deviate from the path of their forefathers. Rationalist Abe (Paul Meade) enrols in Trinity, Dublin, and surreptitiously marries a fellow student, a proto-feminist and socialist activist. Rube (Paul Hickey), slyer and more ruthless, beds a nice susceptible Catholic girl and uses *his post as* Nat's ex-officio accountant to play games with his money.

The play ends with the family in disarray, Nat's timber burned and business ruined, and him leaving for a city he has "heard sound like the trumpets at Jericho": *Jerusalem. How* he will get there, with an unwilling wife, a sick child and raging anti-Semitism everywhere, is another matter that Kostick leaves vaguer than one might wish.

Perhaps he should have picked a less sententious hero and thought and *felt* his way more deeply into both situation and conflict. Still, he is a young writer, with time, good *intentions*, and a talent for characterisation and dialogue on his side. And in the company that self-deprecatingly calls itself Pigsback, he would also seem to have the support of a fine troupe of Irish actors. Next time, he will surely do better.

Key explorations from Scarlatti to Messiaen

Barry Millington attends the first of an ambitious series of recitals covering the history of piano music

Under the heading "Piano Masterworks", an ambitious series of six recitals was launched at the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday night by the Russian pianist **Nikolai Demidenko**. Following 19th-century precedents by Alkan and Anton Rubinstein, the series was devised for Demidenko by Ates Orga to give a broad overview of the piano repertoire from Scarlatti to Messiaen. Orga's imaginative scheme affords not only a fascinating historical sweep, but also a sequence of recitals enticing in their own right: *illuminating too, with many* a revealing juxtaposition.

The series is being recorded live for future release by Hyperion, a company for whom Demidenko has previously recorded only Romantic repertoire. One wondered, therefore, how he would fare in this first programme, entitled "The Classicists". In fact, a programme was cleverly tailored to Demidenko's musical personality: C.P.E. Bach's Variations in D minor ("Folies de'Espagne"), Haydn's Variations in F minor and Mozart's Fantasia and Sonata in C minor all have strong Romantic leanings, a fact exploited by *this pianist.*

His performance of the Haydn was an extraordinary feat of concentration. The Variations, among the last of Haydn's keyboard compositions, were possibly inspired by the death of an intimate Viennese acquaintance, Marianna von Genzinger. Certainly the final pages contain an outpouring of grief that unexpectedly lifts the music on to a quite different emotional plane. The passage always takes the breath away, but Demidenko, with his superb control of tone and line, also managed to make one feel that it was the natural culmination of the earlier variations.

He was similarly responsive to the dark, passionate mood of Mozart's Fantasia, though this was a performance that emphasised the music's pensive, introspective qualities rather than its improvisatory rhetoric. The appended Sonata was another taut study in brooding proto-Romanticism, illuminated by lightning flashes of pent-up emotion.

A well-chosen *Sonata in F sharp* minor by Clementi reminded us not only that he survived his contemporary Mozart well into the 19th century, but also that, at its best, his music is of expressive as well as pedagogical interest. The tone of Demidenko's recital was set by his accounts of seven of Scarlatti's sonatas. These were beautifully crafted, with a smoothness of phrase signalling *his lack of interest in authentic 18th-*century practice as we now understand it. Given the Romantic orientation of the programme, and the conviction of Demidenko's playing, one was not inclined to cavil.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Piquant sauce enlivens this attractive dish

Chef!
BBC 1

COMEDY and food have always gone together. The best jokes in *Fawlty Towers* were the gourmet evenings, the kitchen hygiene fiasco and the perennial problems in the dining room. So the novelty of *Chef!*, Lenny Henry's new six-part series, is not that comic mileage is expected from the subject but that, apart from *Robin's Nest*, it is difficult to recall a sitcom built around the workings of a restaurant.

Of course, *Food and Drink*, *Masterchef* and *Hudson & Halls* have all produced moments of generally unintentional farce, and readers of merely average wealth will be accustomed to finding black humour in the prices quoted in this paper's Weekend section for a three-course meal at a fashionable restaurant. Le Chateau Anglais, the Oxfordshire establishment where Gareth Blackstock (Henry) rules the kitchen, is clearly intended to evoke thoughts of one such: Oxfordshire's real-life Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons. The filming actually took place at L'Ortolan, a slightly less stratospherically pricey eating-house, in Berkshire.

On the evidence of last night's appetising first course, Peter Tilbury's well-researched script is thick with backchat and put-downs. These, allied to zippy editing and on-the-edge playing from Henry and a refreshingly unfamiliar cast, distract attention from rather obvious plot-lines, as skilful saucing might enhance plainly cooked meat.

Blackstock — "think of me as a personality problem under a silly white hat. I'm not a nice man. I'm a shit who likes to cook" — is a top professional, who is authentically driven to maintain the highest standards. The recession is forcing economies, which the restaurant manager (scriptwriter Tilbury, effectively ineffectual) has great difficulty in passing on to his star chef.

Fearing for the long-term prospects of her beautiful country cottage and E-Type Jaguar, Blackstock's ex-City high-flyer wife (Caroline Lee Johnson, quipping up a storm), sees a way to make the necessary savings by promoting a commis to sous chef, bringing in a new commis who is willing to work for nothing and firing the least efficient of the present staff.

As Everton, the old school "friend" eager to acquire real cooking skills without going to college, Roger Griffiths trades insults and comic business with Henry on equal terms. Rising sous chef Lucinda (Claire Skinner) has the right blend of toughness and *tentativeness and the other commis* chefs provide a properly awed chorus for Blackstock's tirades: naturally, he is a secret softie. Prospects for the second and subsequent courses look good.

On only two occasions did the standard slip. Blackstock's wife would surely be aware of the difference between a sous chef and a commis, and not have to ask, except in the interests of clumsy *exposition*. And in view of the fanatical zeal in matters of hygiene now legally required of all kitchen workers, it is unlikely that any chef would dip a tasting spoon into a cooking pot and then either return it to the pot or pass it to a junior to wipe on a rag.

Otherwise, compliments to all the cooks, particularly director John Birkin and producer Charlie Hanson. Editor Nick Arthurs, consultant chefs Paul Headman and John Burton-Race and Omar, composer of the perky signature tune, also deserve a tip.

TONY PATRICK

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Damage due to his self-sacrifice

French director Louis Malle talks to **Melinda Camber Porter** about *Damage*, the latest and most demanding of his films

The extraordinary story behind Louis Malle's obsession with the novel *Damage*, and his stubborn commitment to filming it, never became truly apparent to him until he surfaced from the ordeal. Few directors can claim to put their art before their life, but in this instance, Malle did. He now looks back on the experience with a wry, almost self-mocking sense of humour.

"At the time when I came across the book, I was very depressed basically because I was having lots of problems with my heart, and I started thinking about death a lot," he says. "And then I was exhausted from all this commuting between Los Angeles and France and London. I've had a heart murmur since I was a kid. For me, the film was really about death and death wishes and about self-destructive people.

"There were some images that I really was taken by. For instance, the image of this British cabinet minister running down the stairs naked, and the lovers love-making in a Paris street. Actually, I had this fantasy of making a silent movie of *Damage*, an idea I had explored another time with *Black Moon*.

"Anyhow, after some time we had the money and we got the script. It was about three or four months before we started, and the doctors said, 'Louis, you have to stop. You have to get operated. You have to get yourself a new heart, a new valve.' And I said, 'but I can't'".

So Malle began shooting against his doctors' advice. They told him he was risking his life. Malle clung to the movie, feeling he was engaged in an ultimately self-destructive act, but he could not bring himself to abandon *Damage*, which comes to Britain next week after opening to mixed reviews (but healthy box offices) in America and on the Continent.

The director compares himself to the central character. A politician, Stephen Fleming (played by Jeremy Irons), weds himself to a nightmarish sexual passion that leads to the death of his son. Malle's identification with the Irons character was all-pervasive, but he found himself unable to confide his own potentially tragic situation to his actors or crew.

Malle admits that the atmosphere on the set mirrored the mood of Joephine Hart's bestselling novel, and that, at times, he was unable to harness his own fears. They spilled out into his relationship with the actors, and he was unable to give them the kind of support they needed.

"I was moody on the set and I felt bad. I felt I didn't have much time. I became impatient. And I approached the film with the sense that I really was at the end of my life. I don't think anyone in his right mind would have gambled with my life the way I did. I said to myself, if I have to postpone the film for surgery, I probably won't ever end up making it.

"There's another strange secret I kept to myself. I'd decided when I was 20 that I would never reach the age of 60. My surgery was on October 5 and my sixtieth birthday was on October 30. I went in for surgery, after the shooting of *Damage*, convinced that I would die. I think it all happened because when I was 16 somebody, some clairvoyant, looked at my hand and told me my life-line didn't reach beyond 60 years.

> 'He now says that his greatest skill lay in choosing the right cast, not in having dictated a certain performance'

"I had no peace with the idea of dying. I'm not a Christian or a religious person in any way, and I felt there was so much more I want to do in life. I thought about the people I loved, and the whole thing felt completely unfair and absurd. So I was in a terrible mood all those months. I always work best with a small crew: 20 people. But on *Damage*, I had a big crew, and I had trouble with that because I like to improvise."

In all of Malle's films, be it *Lacombe Lucien* or *Les Amants* or *Le Souffle au Coeur*, his recurring obsession has been with the passionate and transcendent nature of irrationality. In these films, he does not explain behaviour, or moralise on the actions of his characters. Rather, he seems to delight in exploring an uncharted world of emotions and desire where logic has no place.

Similarly, during the shooting he always leaves room for the unexpected, inspired contribution of an actor, or the sudden arrival of a new idea that contradicts what the script has ordained. Despite reports that Malle and his actors had difficulty collaborating on *Damage*, he now says that he owes many of the successful scenes to his actors and that his greatest skill lay in choosing the right cast, not in having dictated a certain performance.

But, in choosing *Damage* as his "last film", he also chose a subject that is a crystallisation and summation of his other work. *Damage* does not have the playfulness of many of his movies, such as *Zazie Dans le Metro* or *Milou en Vacances* (*May Fools*), but it does have all the themes.

"I have always firmly believed that anything important that happens to us, and especially encounters with sex and destruction — the really interesting experiences in life — happen out of the blue and completely irrationally. Then you try desperately to rationalise. That is what lovers do and that is what we do in our lives.

"But that's not what I do as a film-maker. I feel that it isn't my job to explain in *Damage*, I just took the lovers' behaviour as a given. But although I would hate to admit it, making the movie turned me into somewhat of a moralist. I came away with the notion that crime doesn't pay."

I asked Malle whether he had indeed intended to communicate a more celebratory vision of passion than the grim incarnation of desire that emanates from *Damage*. For in most of his films, he has managed to describe both the blinding and the illuminating nature of love.

"Yes, I wanted the sex to be celebratory. But it wasn't. In my mind the story could have been more frivolous. I don't mean that I could have focused on simple sexual pleasures, but I would have wished to give more of a sense that the lovers' moments together were furiously happy. In my mind, you could compare their relationship and their experience of love as a religious, mystical experience.

"I think the reason the film is doing so well with audiences is that it immediately enters their fantasy world. It becomes part of their erotic dreams, or dreams of self-destruction, a fantasy or a nightmare.

"There's nothing realistic about the movie, because if it was a realistic movie, you'd end up having to deal with rationality. For me, the only interesting movie to make is about a dream of reality, a certain aspiration we might harbour, a fantasy that we might hold out for our lives".

● *Damage, with Jeremy Irons, Juliette Binoche and Miranda Richardson, opens in Britain next Friday*



Louis Malle: "I didn't have much time. I approached the film with the sense that I was at the end of my life. I don't think anyone in his right mind would have gambled with my life the way I did."

MIME FESTIVAL

Not so far so good

Although my knowledge of Paris does not include the Petit Montparnasse theatre, the name suggests that it is on the small side. This helps to explain how **All Men Are The Same**, a 90-minute mime by the four members of the Cotillard Company enjoyed a run of 500 performances there. The show is quite amusing and ably performed, perceptive enough to make one aware of truths at the heart of the buffoonery, but that's about it. *franchement*.

All men are the same, Jean-Claude Cotillard suggests, because when they arrive for a job interview and discover other applicants in the waiting-room, they will all resort to one-up-manship. One is nervous, another cocky, a third suavely self-contained and reluctant to act out his fantasy aggression. The mood is never greatly serious, even though all the men expire while waiting, the last one succumbing to a heart attack just as the personnel manager's door finally opens to him.

The set for the Purcell Room performances is a white room with four chairs and two tables. At one point the tables lock together and are tipped over with the top facing us; the four men turn themselves from the vertical to the horizontal position and cling to the sides with only the upper parts of their bodies showing. All this is done in an instant and we find ourselves apparently looking down on a conference table from above. This is a clever trick, and when Serge Krakowski (taking the place of Cotillard, who has broken his leg) shifts himself along the floor but seems to be dancing on top of the table, the feat earns a round of applause.

Alain Boone, Daniel Delabesse and François Cogneau are the other nimble company members. They are, remarkably, able to move in unison without looking at each other.

But, for me, the enterprise is just too controlled and lighthearted. Perhaps after a jolly meal in the rue de la Gaîté it might have seemed more worthwhile.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DANCE: Cast changes in the Royal Ballet's triple bill dedicated to Rudolf Nureyev



Irek Mukhamedov as Apollo in the Balanchine ballet

Everything but a decent plot

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

The Bolshoi Ballet's director Yuri Grigorovich went to Covent Garden the other day to see Kenneth MacMillan's *The Judas Tree*. I wonder whether he thought it (as I am inclined to do) amazingly like the suites his own company is presenting at the Albert Hall. Like them, it is full of splendidly tempestuous dancing for the men, with an over-the-top female role representing both whore and ideal woman (although he customarily splits those between two characters); and the action is full of dramatic incidents but offers no comprehensible plot.

Among many cast changes this week, Bruce Sansom showed a quiet, tough presence as the one good guy, and Leanne Benjamin, new to the woman's role, looked as natural and convincing as if it had been made for her. But although we tend to think of Benjamin as a dramatic dancer, she looked even better in the pure exhilarating dance of Balanchine's *Symphony in C*, soaring every bit as high as Tetsuya Kumakawa, her partner in the third movement, and showing that virtuosity need not be at the expense of style.

One unfortunate effect of watching the Bolshoi on its big open stage is to make the Covent Garden stage look cramping by contrast, not only in a big ballet like *Symphony in C* but even in *Apollo* with its small cast.

Irek Mukhamedov's account of the title role in this was interesting but not fully satisfying. His head and upper body vividly expressed the drama implicit in the dances, his legs less so: not much crispness, and not the explosive quality one would expect from him. Viviana Durante's Terpsichore was curiously casual (*Symphony in C* suits her much better), the orchestra — fine in the other ballets — too flaccid, but Muriel Valtat and Belinda Hatley were excellent as the other muses.

JOHN PERCIVAL

JAZZ REVIEW: Two distinguished Americans, appearing at informal London venues

Dandy Yankees doodling well

What is it like to be button-holed by a man who insists on telling you everything you didn't want to know about one of the pioneers of the kazoo, a certain Red McKenzie? If your lecturer is Marty Grosz, the American guitarist (and son of the satirical artist George Grosz) the experience can be exceptionally rewarding. His residency at the Pizza Express, Dean Street, in Soho, which ends on Sunday, has been the highlight of a quiet month.

When he is not playing or indulging in his gruff brand of singing, Grosz resembles a transatlantic version of A.J.P. Taylor. There is the same puckish wit, the same restless hurrying from one anecdote to another, and an eagerness to impart wisdom — in this case about obscure musicians of the Twenties and Thirties. His bow-tie and dapper dress sense only add to the illusion.

The one-liners are reinforced by the accomplished ensemble work of Grosz's Big Four, a piano-less and drumless quartet in which the guitar is allotted the task of providing a chordal base. It is a form of chamber jazz that requires exceptional subtlety and flexibility, the qualities displayed by Grosz and his partners Jack Fallon on bass, Cuff Billett on trumpet and Bruce Turner on saxophone and clarinet.

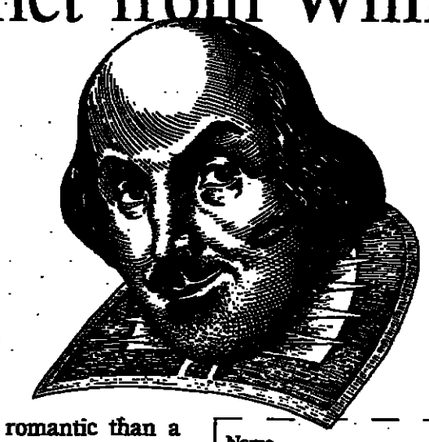
This was very much a collective effort, with no space for long-winded soloing. Each player made his contribution as brief and expressive as possible, supported by discreet harmonising from the other members of the group. Billett and Turner in particular made a persuasive double-act on "Wabash Blues" and "Just Friends". Half-hidden behind one of the room's pillars, the trumpeter laced his phrases with fruity growls and smears while taking care not to overpower the rest of the group.

OVER in Knightsbridge the music room at Pizza on the Park is playing host to another American visitor, Margaret Whiting, as part of the cabaret series "Musical Ladies of Broadway". Like Julie Wilson, who played at the venue earlier this month, Whiting belongs to the select group of vocalists who can normally be heard at New York venues such as the Rainbow & Stars and the Algonquin.

Whiting made her name with Johnny Mercer in the early Forties. Her best-known hit "Moonlight in Vermont" has become a standard feature of her shows, and it duly formed part of her opening set. Accompanied by the Tex Arnold Trio, Whiting delivers songs with no frills or excess emotion. The lyrics of the songs are treated with all the respect they deserve, though she inserted a playful sniff on the reference to cocaine in "I Get A Kick Out of You". Whiting, in residence until February 6, gives way to Karen Akers.

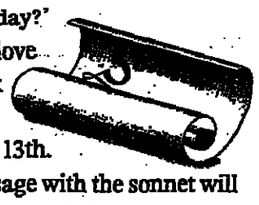
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604 CLR	£850	GLW 822	£995	NSK 971	£410	PRH 144W	£150	A 7 VYL	[illegible]		
CSA 872	£1050	777 GOM	£350	LBG 74	£1250	PRT 283	£800	VLJ 32	[illegible]		
A 7 CBL	£340	790 GKD	£750	LLP 721	£450	440 PRE	£350	VMP 843	[illegible]		
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MOTORING

A decade of progress in belting-up

Back-seat passengers and children are the targets in a fresh government safety initiative that marks ten years of seat-belt legislation

TEN years ago this month, it became illegal for drivers and front-seat passengers to travel without using their seat-belts, a move that is estimated to have saved 2,000 lives and prevented 70,000 serious injuries *(Vaughan Freeman writes)*.

To mark the anniversary, a government campaign is to be launched next month to try to convince back-seat passengers to obey the law, which was introduced in 1991 to make the wearing of rear-seat belts obligatory for adults. It is estimated that if all back-seat passengers used their belts it would save 100 additional lives and prevent 1,000 serious injuries each year.

The front seat-belt laws were introduced a decade ago by David Howell, then transport secretary, following growing pressure from safety lobby groups. Although all new cars had belts fitted, while their use remained optional, only half of Britain's drivers bothered. Public-awareness campaigns — including the "Clunk, click, every trip" slogan on television and posters promoted by Jimmy Savile, the televison personality — helped to raise the percentage. Where gentle persuasion and common sense failed, the law succeeded. Before the law was passed 53 per cent of drivers and 54 per cent of front-seat-passengers used their belts. Since then the usage rate has been about 95 per cent for both.

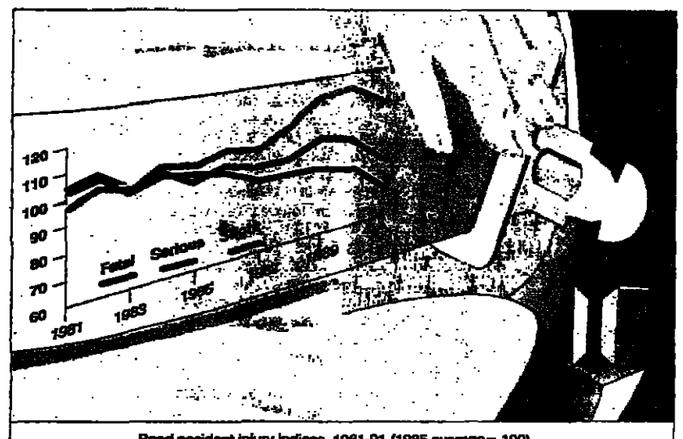
Fears that seat-belts would create a false sense of security and encourage drivers to go too fast for the conditions or their driving ability appear to have proved groundless. Accident rates, deaths and injuries have continued to fall despite increasing numbers of vehicles on our roads (see chart).

As seat-belts proved their worth, car-makers provided more safety features. Audi introduced Procon Ten, which instantly pulls the steering wheel and column out of the way of the driver in a smash. Dashboards became softer and airbags more common. Ford's new Mondeo will have a driver's airbag fitted as standard. Many new cars have seat-belt tensioners to take up slack in an accident, reducing the severity of head and chest injuries. Seats are designed to stop occupants "submarining" under the belts. Children's seats have also been improved.

Despite legislation making the use of back-seat belts obligatory, the usage rate is only 60 per cent, and falling. So more belt laws will be introduced from Monday.

In future it will be illegal (potential penalty £500) to carry children under three years old (the previous limit was 12 months) in the front of a car unless they are in a proper child's seat. But if a child under 12 and less than 4ft 11in tall is travelling in a car that has belts in the front but no rear-seat belts, the child must use the seat with the belt. Had this law been introduced 12 months ago, it would have saved the lives of four youngsters and saved 50 more from serious injury.

A RESTRAINT ON INJURIES: TEN YEARS OF SEAT-BELTS



Road accident injury indices, 1981-91 (1985 average= 100)
Source: Department of Transport

Haggle-free, and hassle-free, part-exchange car sales are on their way to Britain, **Vaughan Freeman** reports

The end for deals on wheels

A forecourt revolution is about to transform car-buying and help to eradicate the wretched business of part-exchanging the old car while haggling for the best price available on the new one.

Lex, one of the three biggest new-car outlets with 81 dealerships countrywide, is to experiment with American-style "no haggle" selling and a scheme to set the price of the car being traded in.

No-haggle buying has been catching on quickly across the Atlantic, where the fear and loathing that surrounds car-buying transactions matches that suffered by British car buyers. In America, an estimated 2,200 dealerships — about 10 per cent of all those in the country — are planning this year to try what they call "no dicker" selling techniques.

In theory, the idea is simple. The dealer simply works out the absolute minimum he can competitively charge for a car and still cover all expenses and make a profit.

That price is then written on a sticker and slapped on the car's windscreen. Customers entering the showroom know that to try to reduce that price by one dollar will be a waste of time, even if their offer is backed by a bag of cash.

Lex has six dealerships in southern California, called the Campbell chain. The outlets have been experimenting with the no-haggle method for more than a year. The response has been phenomenal, says David Beck, the managing director of Lex Retail Group in Britain. "The first time one of our showrooms opened advertising fixed-price selling, it was impossible to handle the showroom traffic. It was inundated.

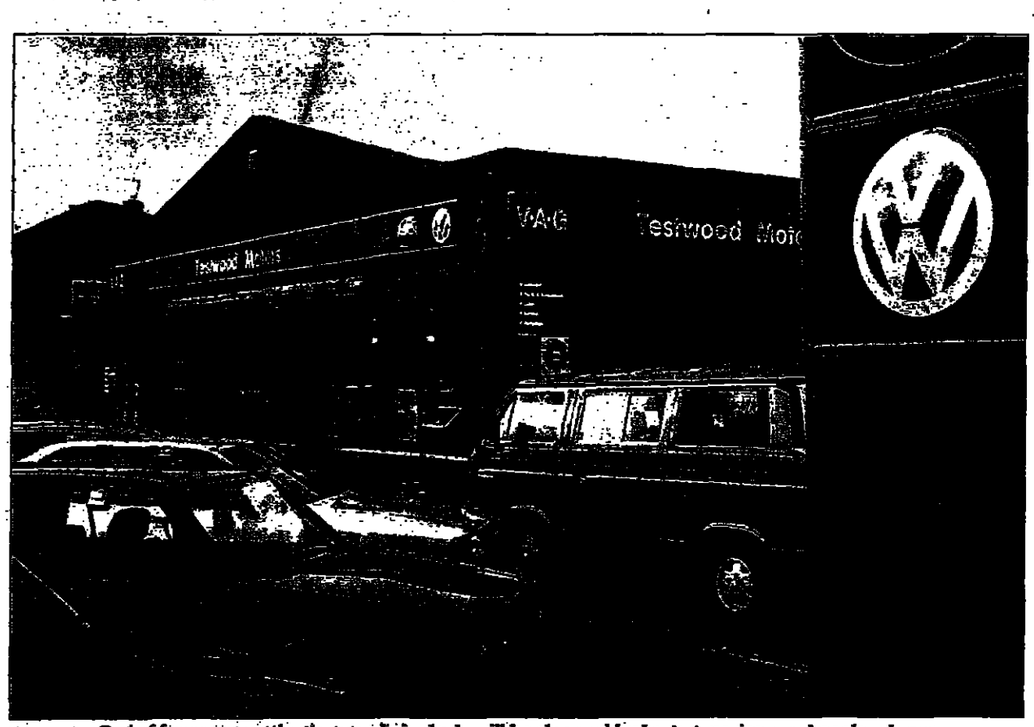
"The attraction for customers is that they do not like haggling. They like buying a car and that is supposed to be a great experience, but a lot of people regard it as being worse than a trip to the dentist."

In America, research by the car market experts, J. D. Power, shows that while 30 per cent of car-buyers enjoy haggling because they feel they will get a better deal, the other 70 per cent dislike it. Research in the United Kingdom by Vauxhall shows more than 80 per cent of drivers would rather see a standard price on cars than have to negotiate for the best deal.

A report last year from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) found that one-third of drivers lost out on discounts worth thousands of pounds when they bought a car. The average discount on sales in 1990 was 11 per cent — more than £1,000 off the price of the average family saloon. But 34 per cent of buyers did not expect or ask for a reduction.

Of buyers who did get money knocked off, the MMC report showed that four out of ten won discounts of 10 per cent or less, three out of ten got reductions between 10 and 15 per cent, one-quarter got reductions of 15-20 per cent and only 5 per cent of the sample got more than 20 per cent off.

Little wonder that most drivers have a sneaking suspicion that had they haggled harder, they would have got a better deal.



Out-of-forecourt settlement: trade-in deals will be changed by Lex's American no-haggle scheme



Set price: David Beck

It is this suspicion that mars a car-buying transaction and Mr Beck says that removing it has improved business and left customers happier.

"In America, our outlets report a leap in customer satisfaction, and sales are also up. When that happens, you have to be doing something right. We have also found that word of mouth is so strong that we have been able to cut back on advertising," he says.

It would be relatively straightforward to set a no-haggle price for a car if customers were simply buying "off the shelf" as if it were a can of beans. But the majority of car sales in Britain revolve around a part-exchange, and it is the valuation of the used car that often causes most friction and discontent.

This problem will be circumvented by bringing in an independent car price assessor if the dealer and customer cannot agree a price on the car. A scheme is being set up, with Lex as the prime mover.

Mr Beck says: "The valuation will be done independently. It will be realistic: we are aware the system will fail if it does not inspire trust in the customer."

He adds: "There is no question there is a growing momentum in the United States for no-haggle deals and we have to watch that very closely as retailing movements do tend to start in America before coming across here. We would be foolish to ignore it."

Lex accounts for 3 per cent of new cars sold in the UK, so the whole industry will be watching the pilot project with interest.

Mark Catterall, the deputy editor of the car industry magazine, *Motor Trader*, says: "We believe there is always likely to be someone down the road offering cars 50p cheaper or whatever. But there is no doubt that the no-haggle idea can work.

"However, most big car companies have now brought their dealership profit margins down to 10 per cent, so there is already less room for manoeuvre on deals and we believe that is the way things will go.

"The truth is that something like 70 per cent of car buyers think they have not got the best deal on their new car."

Buying from a dealer whose prices are not only competitive but not open to negotiation should therefore prove an important attraction for most car buyers, Mr Catterall says.

Hopes that the scheme will prove to be the death of the car salesman are premature. Lex believes that sales people will still thrive by concentrating on selling the right car for the customer's needs, rather than trying to win a deal.

Vauxhall's bundle of cuddly fun

The Corsa is one of a new breed of small cars that have more than a hint of originality

The cuddly car look that is fast becoming a feature of today's mini-sized vehicles has been adopted by Vauxhall for its Corsa, which replaces the Nova. The Luton manufacturer describes the three-door version of the Corsa as its "fun" car.

That manufacturers now use words such as "cuddly" and "cheeky" shows how hard they are striving to put personality back into cars after being accused throughout the 1980s of sacrificing individuality for bland look-a-like competence.

This was particularly true in the family saloon sector, where only the most dedicated car spotter was able to identify cars such as the Cavalier, Primera and Honda Accord by their silhouette alone. Motorists looking for a new car now take it for granted that it will be reliable, efficient, comfortable and safe; they are again seeking something that makes one car stand out from the crowd. The answer is looks.

> Car builders are trying hard to put personality back into their product

Individuality is important in the small car sector in which the Belgium-built Corsa will be competing. Most smaller cars are bought by private customers rather than by company fleet managers. In this area, profits per car are higher because discounts are lower than when selling in volume to company car fleets. However, private buyers make greater demands for something different — something they hope will reflect their personalities.

Vauxhall believes the Corsa's looks will do the job and surpass the success of the Nova. This was introduced in 1983 and sold 500,000 in Britain and ten million in Europe as a whole. Despite its age, the Nova sold 42,000 last year in the United Kingdom against a record 71,000 in 1989.

As well as the challenge from the British-built Nissan Micra that was recently voted European Car of the Year, there is competition too from the Renault Clio and Peugeot 106. The big-selling champions still to be toppled in the small-car sector are the Ford Fiesta and Rover Metro.

The three-door Corsa goes on sale in Britain on April 2, when prices will be announced, and the five-door versions will arrive in May. The top-of-the-range GSi will be available in the summer and there will be a Corsa van later in the year.

The Corsa in three-door form is rounded with soft lines and distinctive, almost triangular, headlamps. There is lots of glass, promising good headroom and visibility. The car uses the "cab forward" style, which in this case has moved the windscreen forward seven inches to increase internal space and visibility. This gives the car its slightly poised and hunched-forward look.

The five-door version, which Vauxhall classifies as its "functional" model, is less rounded and more upright towards the back and the rear hatch.

The 17-model range begins with the 90mph, 1.2 litre three-door. There is a 1.5 litre diesel and a 1.6 litre, 16-valve 121mph GSi that tops the range. At 12ft 3in the Corsa is 3in longer than the Nova, but by pushing the wheels out further to the corners of the car Vauxhall has provided both more leg room for passengers in the back and some extra shoulder room.

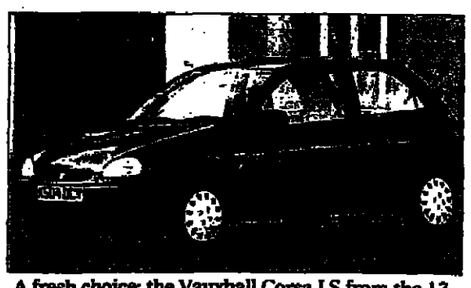
Standard features across the range include front seat-belt tensioners to take up slack in an accident, twin side-impact beams in the doors, a collapsible steering column, deadlocks, pollen filters and security-coded radio cassettes.

Options include a driver's side air bag, anti-lock brakes, security alarm with engine immobiliser, power steering and automatic gearbox.

Fans of the Nova may be upset to see that the name as well as the car is to die. But the name change is in line with Vauxhall's plans to harmonise models across Europe. Vauxhall in the UK and its sister company, Opel, sell identical cars here and on the Continent but have traditionally used different names. The replacement to the Nova adopts the Corsa name that Opel has long used for the same vehicle on the Continent.

The policy works both ways and the Cavalier tag has crossed the Channel to replace the old Opel Vectra badge for that car. Whatever name it carries, the Corsa is entering one of the market's more competitive sectors, but Vauxhall seems confident it will do better than its predecessor.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN



A fresh choice: the Vauxhall Corsa *LS* from the 17-model range which replaces the popular Nova

Tanks of inexpensive travel

The Citroën BX diesel estate is a practical family car

As I pondered how to get from my Brighton home to Birmingham recently I considered letting the train take the strain rather than risk the endless cones of motorway driving *(Vaughan Freeman writes)*.

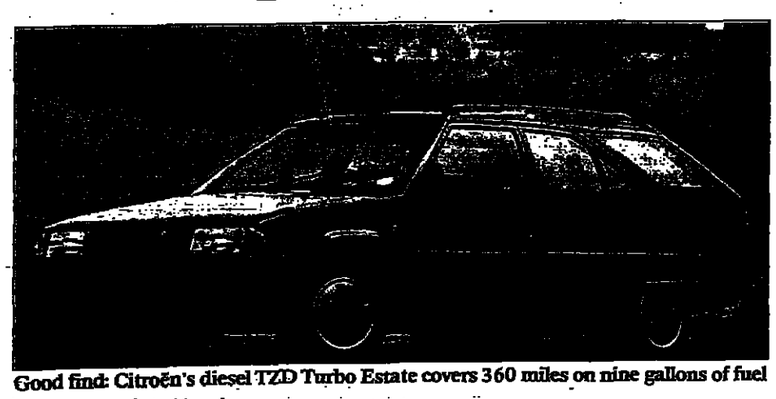
Television commercials show relaxed British Rail travellers leafing through their favourite paperbacks and sipping coffee as the countryside rolls by. What better way to travel when the alternative is hours of shredded nerves amid the motorway madness?

It is about 180 miles from Brighton to Birmingham International station, close to the National Exhibition Centre, which was my destination. The centre is also served by the M1, M42 and M6, among others.

One phone call to British Rail's Brighton ticket office followed by a spot of shirtcuff mathematics showed why there are 23 million car drivers in Britain and why my unread paperback remained just that.

A standard-class open return rail ticket from Brighton would have cost £71 — about 20p a mile. Citroën's diesel TZD Turbo Estate covers 360 miles on nine gallons of fuel at 210p a gallon.

That works out at about 5p a mile and the figures compare even more favourably if there is more than one person in the car.



Good find: Citroën's diesel TZD Turbo Estate covers 360 miles on nine gallons of fuel

In the event, the car's 14.5 gallon tank took the BX 550 miles, with the car loaded, before the fuel gauge slid below the three-quarters-empty mark, the point at which I usually start to feel nervous and start looking for a garage.

These figures obviously do not include annual running costs but most drivers judge the cash-effectiveness of their vehicle by costs on the forecourt.

Diesel cars hold their secondhand resale values well and have good longevity. A 100,000-mile life for a diesel engine is the norm rather than the exception. No wonder diesel car sales set new records by the month.

The car's carrying capacity is good. The BX estate happily took on board a family of four plus all our luggage for a weekend away, including two children's bicycles, without using the roof rack.

The car rides well although the power steering, which comes as standard, is surprisingly heavy when parking. There is plenty of room for front and rear occupants and the turbo-assisted engine is fast enough, especially when overtaking.

On the move, the car belies its diesel engine and behaves like a petrol vehicle, although Citroën has been unable to suppress the distinctive diesel rattle and cloud of smoke on start-up.

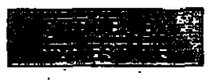
On the motorway, there was a lot of road and wind noise, to the point where I thought a door or window was not properly closed. I found the driver's seat uncomfortable after travelling for about 100 miles.

These niggles aside, the BX estate is a convincing people- and load-carrier which benefits from the ecological argument. Diesel's exhaust emissions put out a fraction of the polluting exhaust gasses of petrol cars.

Economy is still one of the most persuasive arguments when it comes to choosing a car.

The hidden costs, such as depreciation and finance, make up the biggest slice of long-term motoring expenses, but the most immediate nasty shocks are always felt at the fuel pumps.

Diesel power goes a long way to easing forecourt phobia. British Rail, or its successors, will have to work hard to woo drivers such as me who would rather risk the frustrations of motorway holdups than pay train ticket prices.



Engine: 1769cc, turbo-charged, four-cylinder diesel giving 90bhp at 4,300rpm through manual five speed gearbox.
Top speed: 108mph.
0 to 60mph: 10.4sec.
Fuel consumption: 59mpg at 56mph, 41mpg around town.
Price: £14,895.

Capitol gains

☐ Bill Clinton could soon benefit from all-British technology when his presidential cavalcade winds its way through traffic jams around the White House. Trafficmaster, which gives motorists the latest information on traffic congestion via a portable in-car display screen and is now being used on the M25, is to go on trial on Washington DC's equivalent, the Beltway.

General Logistics, which developed Trafficmaster, has signed a deal with America's Westinghouse to try the equipment around the US capital.

Just the ticket

☐ London traffic wardens are being coached in calming the wrath of maddened motorists. Two-day psychology courses have been introduced after an increase in assaults on wardens, which have resulted in falling morale and higher rates of sick leave.

A spokesman for the National Union of Civil and Public Servants says: "The aim is to avoid confrontation. One approach being encouraged is to diffuse volatile situations using humour, although ticketed motorists may not see the joke."

The good read

☐ Last week's re-launch of the *Highway Code*, the first important revision since 1978, showed that although the work is essential reading it is sadly ignored by most drivers. The book costs only 99p and covers all latest changes in the law, but an AA survey discovered that only 15 per cent of drivers plan to buy a copy. The AA found that 27 per cent of drivers last read the *Highway Code* ten or more years ago. Almost all the two million copies sold annually will be bought by learner drivers.

Contemporary art

☐ The car is a work of art — that's official. The new Nissan Micra has just gone on display at the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art in Sunderland, near the Tyne and Wear



factory where the car is built. The display aims to highlight the artistic merits of the car, which has apparently been inspired by, among other things, butterfly wings. The exhibition, "Micra-Processes", runs until February 20.

Fast take-off

☐ The fastest load carrier to reach Britain's roads arrives this spring when Audi's estate flagship goes on sale.

The 150mph S2 Estate will head the new Audi Estate range. It delivers 230bhp through four-wheel drive and will reach 60mph from standing start in just six seconds. Prices start at £17,000 for the 1.9 litre Turbo diesel. The S2 is slightly more costly at £30,500.

Why we should stop replacing the irreplaceable


Davies: timely arrival



GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

You will forgive me for raising the point at this early stage, with some eight days still to go, but I wonder which of the coaches at next week's international in Cardiff will benefit from the reverberating success of the underdog on the club pitch next door last weekend. Perhaps Alan Davies, of Wales, and Dick Best, of England, should have "Remember St Peter's" writ large on the dressing-room wall before their charges embark on their tussle on February 6.

Davies may find succour in the knowledge that victory does not always go to the favourite. Best might similarly remind his players, though the psychology is different. One is moved by outrageous possibilities, the other needs to guard against them.

But the Swalec Cup upset raised another issue. Not that anyone should wish to prolong Cardiff's agony, but it may be worth recalling that in their Welsh cup defeat by a third division club, they made a replacement. When their fortunes were diminishing, they replaced their young stand-off half, Geraint Lewis, with their first-choice player in the position, Adrian Davies, a member of the Wales squad. There were those who interpreted this not as a replacement of an injured player, but as a substitution. In other words, the player was changed for tactical, rather than medical, reasons.

Suspicions that the law governing replacements was being flouted were aroused also during Swansea's match against Llanelli. Not long after Garin Jenkins, the hooker, was sent off, Alan Reynolds, a flanker, went down with an injury to be replaced by Robin McBryde, a hooker.

"It seems this season that there have been a number of, shall we say, questionable or convenient injuries to certain players to allow specialist players to come on," Ken Rowlands, the Welsh Rugby Union referees development officer, said.

Doubts were first aroused in international rugby last season. When France were failing miserably in the lineout against Wales, Christophe Mougeot was replaced by Olivier Roumat at half-time. The amount of possession they won increased noticeably.

Once again, a dubious practice has begun and is imitated. It is, however, a contravention of the law. Up to four players can be replaced, but "only on account of injury", which during internationals is determined by a medical practitioner or, at club level, by a medically trained person. On the evidence of the swiftness with which exchanges take place in club matches, the referee does not always appear to check the medical opinion.

To be fair, even a doctor may be in some difficulty. Diagnosing a hamstring injury, for instance, cannot be done with the same certainty as a broken nose, which has a certain visual impact at least.

The procedure for introducing a replacement has grown less prolonged, in some respects less worrying, than in 1969, when Phil Bennett became the first international replacement. There were only two named replacements then. Now there are six. Substitution becomes possible because of the choice of specialist players available on the bench. A player would be reluctant to come off, and a coach loath to pull him off, if, as before, there were only two replacements to choose from.

But the number was increased because of the danger of replacing specialist players by players with no experience in positions such as the front row. *Litigation* was, and remains, possible in the event of debilitating injury. Furthermore, the International Rugby Football Board is already considering substitution of players sent off.

In which case, now that the practice has begun, it is difficult to see how it can be stopped. Once more, sadly, control moves into the coach's hands, and away from the players. It is an unnecessary and unwanted shift.

Women produce predictable final

World domination by Seles and Graf continues unabated

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

SO COMPLETE has been the domination of Monica Seles and Steffi Graf over the past two years, no other player has won a grand slam title since the US Open in 1990 — eight grand slams ago. Seles, the defending champion and world No. 1, has won six and Graf two, both at Wimbledon.

Despite a spirited challenge from Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the status quo was never seriously in danger of disruption in the semi-finals of the Australian Open yesterday.

Seles, who beat a woeful Gabriela Sabatini for the loss of three games, and Graf, the 7-5, 6-4 winner over Sánchez Vicario, will meet as scheduled in the final tomorrow in the latest instalment of a rivalry every bit as intense — if not yet as enduring — as that between Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova, who shared 14 consecutive grand slams between 1982 and 1985.

"It's going to be special," Graf said. "I'll have to be patient and go for my shots."

Though the pair have now contested three of the last four grand slam finals, strangely, in these days of a tournament-a-week tennis, Graf's emphatic 6-2, 6-1 win on the centre court at Wimbledon was the last of their nine meetings. On clay, Seles's ground strokes have the edge; on grass, Graf's extra weight of service and superior volley hold sway.

On the Rebound Ace surface at Flinders Park, midway between the two in terms of speed, the balance of power might well be decided more in the mind than on the court, which makes the Yugoslav the marginal favourite.

Neither needed to be at their best to reach the final. Sabatini was a shadow of herself, partly because of a virus, and spent much of the time chasing shadows. She was broken five times and could not muscle her way out of trouble as she had in the quarter-final against Mary Pierce.

Only at the start of the second set was Seles's dominance called into question as Sabatini, the No. 3 seed, drew her opponent to the net and followed up with a lob or pass. Two errors and two double-faults in the fifth game broke the spell and Seles ended as she had begun by taking four games in a row for a 6-1, 6-2 victory in 53 minutes.

Sabatini has now lost 12 of her 15 grand slam semi-finals. "It was a close match," Seles said. It did not look too tough from the outside.

Graf started slowly and had to come from behind to take the first set. Sánchez Vicario served for it at 5-4, only to be broken to love as Graf reeled off the last four games.

In spasms, the Spaniard looked as complete a player as Graf but a clay-court tendency to retreat rather than attack in times of trouble allowed the No. 2 seed back into the match whenever she threatened to gain the upper hand. With her instinct for defence, speed, low centre of gravity and ability to retrieve, Sánchez Vicario would make an excellent sweeper for her beloved Barcelona FC — an impression enhanced by new trainers that resembled football boots more than tennis shoes.

Stubborn defence, though, provides little protection against aggressors as powerful and ruthless as Graf and Seles.

Three unforced errors handed Graf a 3-1 lead in the second set and a hotly disputed ace, on break point, blocked Sánchez Vicario's one chance of recovery.

Only when Graf served for the match at 5-4 did the nerves take over, an ill-timed double-fault on break point giving the No. 4 seed a brief glimpse of escape, which was quickly cut off by a flurry of errors in the very next game.

"It was sort of OK," Graf said of her performance. "Nothing special."

James Baily and Jamie Delgado, of Britain, reached the quarter-finals of the boys' singles. For the second successive day, both beat seeds — Baily recovering in the second set to beat the No. 3 seed, Lars Rehmann, of Germany, and Delgado outplaying the No. 9 seed, Nicolas Escude, of France.

RESULTS: Men: Doubles: Semi-finals: D Visser (SA) and L Warder (Aus) bt J-L De Jager and M Ondruska (SA), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; J Fitzgerald (Aus) and A Jarryd (Swe) bt M Kratzmann and W Masur (Aus), 7-6, 6-4, 5-1. Women: Singles: Semi-finals: M Seles (Yug) bt G Sabatini (Arg), 6-1, 6-2; S Graf (Ger) bt A Sánchez Vicario (Sp), 7-5, 6-4. Doubles: Quarter-finals: G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Belarus) bt L McNeil (US) and R Stubbs (Aus), 6-3, 6-1; P Shriver (US) and E Smylie (Aus) bt L Neiland (Lat) and J Novotna (Cz), 6-3, 6-3. Mixed doubles: Quarter-finals: Z Garrison-Jackson and R Leach (US) bt N Miyagi (Japan) and K Kinnear (US), 4-6, 7-5, 6-7; J Hetherington and G Michibata (Can) bt P Shriver (US) and S Stolle (Aus), 7-6, 3-6, 6-2; Sánchez Vicario and T Woodbridge (Aus) bt C Martinez and J Sánchez (Sp), 6-1, 6-1. Semi-final: Garrison-Jackson and Leach bt Zvereva and K Jones (US), 6-2, 7-6.

BARRY GREENWOOD


Grounds for optimism: Ian Clough, left, the Dewsbury secretary, and Smith at their adopted Batley home

Dewsbury plough a field of dreams

Christopher Irvine on the welcome being prepared for mighty Wigan by the minnows hoping to spring a Challenge Cup surprise

MOUNT Pleasant is not as it sounds. Batley play their rugby league there, as do Dewsbury nowadays. "You could plant decent tatties on it," the groundsman proclaimed, as a black liquor percolated to the surface and spilled down the slope towards the wool mills that form the physical backbone of the two west Yorkshire towns.

Whoever said that the road to Wembley never ran smoothly probably had such a place in mind. Fifty games in five months have transformed the pitch into a mudheap, and Wigan's hopes of a sixth consecutive Challenge Cup will require the stoutest of performances on it against Dewsbury in a first-round tie on Sunday.

A dank and pokey visitors' dressing-room is part of Dewsbury's armoury. "When you put the kettle on next door, the heater packs in," Norman Smith, their coach, said. "We want to make it as uncomfortable for them as possible, particularly on the pitch. What a state, eh?" And the smile broadens.

Dewsbury have not known a day like it for years, nor a season for that matter. They lead the third division by four points and have sold 4,500 tickets, which will treble their usual attendance; not that there is any indication around Mount Pleasant of the match taking place.

This is strictly the home of Batley. Dewsbury have been in temporary residence 18 months, awaiting the completion in December of a new stadium. A suburban sprawl has enveloped their old ground at Crown Flatt, where the street names are a reminder of past glories: Stephenson Close after Mike Stephenson, who captained the side to the 1973 championship, and Waring Way.

Times have been at their leanest for two decades but have improved since the move to Batley, where they are undefeated this season. Even the die-hards who refuse to darken Batley's door may relent this once.

Wigan stir memories of the 1929 final, the first at Wembley, and what around the town is still referred to as an early case of "nobbling". So as not to offend southern sensibilities, Joe Lyman's team of firebrands was told by a league official in the dressing-room to tone down its approach. The result was a 13-2 defeat.

For their thirteenth meeting in the cup — Dewsbury's solitary win was in 1899 — Wigan can expect no favours. Dewsbury's youth policy has spawned a wealth of talent, led by Nathan Graham, a full back now being recommended for international under-21 honours. The pace of Eddie Rombo, a Kenyan, and Dennis Bailey on the wings, allied to the intuitive pairing of Paul Delaney and Paul Shuttleworth at half back, could stretch Wigan.

Smith is under no illusions. "A miner, plasterer, bricklayer, plumber, postman, publican, engineer and students versus the finest professional club. You can only dream," he said. "That's what we must do, and remember that this is a superb one-off. Workington in the league next week, now, that's serious . . ."

Pakistanis drop three for Sharjah

Pakistan have omitted Aamir Sohail, Shahid Saeed and Naved Anjum from a squad of 16 for the one-day cricket tournaments in Sharjah and South Africa. The team, which will be captained by Wasim Akram for the first time, leaves for Sharjah tomorrow.

Salim Malik and Ramiz Raja were among those originally dropped but after lobbying were named in the tour party, the announcement of which was delayed by 24 hours.

SQUAD: Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Ramiz Raja, Shoaib Mohammad, Aaqib Javed, Mushtaq Ahmed, Zahid Fazal, Rashid Latif, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Azaur Rahman, Asif Mujtaba, Ghulam Ali, Saeed Anwar, Arshad Khan.

Krabbe delay

Athletics: Katrin Krabbe's appeal against a four-year ban for doping has been put back another month to March, the German athletics federation (DLV) said yesterday. The federation is waiting for reports on the drug clenbuterol before it can stage the hearing.

☐ The track at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, south London, is to be resurfaced between April and June at a cost of around £100,000. The first meeting on the new track will be the Pearl Assurance British championships on June 12 and 13.

BOA initiative

Olympic Games: The British Olympic Association (BOA) is to accredit leading sports centres to help raise the quality of training for prospective medal-winners. These centres will be permitted to display the five-ring Olympic symbol but must provide suitable facilities such as accommodation and advice in nutrition, sports medicine and sports science.

Wainwright's call

Tennis: Mandy Wainwright, 16, who reached the semi-finals of the Orange Bowl world junior championships in Miami last month, has received a wild card into the LTA women's satellite tournament in Newcastle next week.

Brand in front

Golf: Gordon J. Brand, the former champion, struck six birdies in a round of 69 to take the joint lead with Ian Spencer in the first round of the Zambian Open at Lusaka yesterday. They lead Jan Tilmanis, the Swede, and Peter Njiru, of Kenya, by a stroke.

GOLF

Claydon clicks with salvaged club

FROM MEL WEBB IN DUBAI

THERE was Russell Claydon using a putter he had scavenged from a rubbish bin, and Severiano Ballesteros experiencing a touch of discomfort with a pair of breaches. The first round of the Dubai Desert Classic yesterday was never in danger of becoming boring.

Claydon, who had a round of 66, six under par, a stroke behind the young Irishman, Paul McGinley, had his best putting round for some time, and he did it with a putter he could not say with any certainty belonged to him.

He acquired the club after Johan Rystrom, disgusted with its inability to put the ball in the hole, broke it and threw it away when playing with Claydon in the European Masters in Switzerland last autumn. Claydon's caddie saved it from an awful and anonymous fate.

The club was given a new shaft. Claydon liked it and finished fourth in Germany the first time he used it. Rystrom reckons it still belongs to him, but Claydon's six birdie puts, two of them from 20 feet, did nothing to improve Rystrom's chances of a speedy reunion with the club.

McGinley, a former Walker Cup player, had seven birdies in the first 13 holes of a career-best round, and had kind words to say about the help given when he was still an amateur by Nick Faldo who yesterday had a 70.

Ballesteros, meanwhile, was undergoing a lecture from Andy McFee, one of the tour's senior rules staff, for slow play. Ballesteros, milking the situation afterwards as only he can, obviously liked the sound of the word.

"He said I had two breaches," he said. "I thought I played quite fast, but I don't like to have these breaches. I am worried about Bernhard Langer — I think he is going to have a lot of breaches this year." A short silence. "And Nick Faldo. Breaches for him, too."

Mike Stewart, the tournament director, said that Ballesteros and Peter Mitchell, one of his playing partners, had broken the slow play regulation twice each. Ballesteros, Mitchell and the blameless Jim Payne took nearly 4½ hours for their round, 15 minutes longer than the tour's target.

A third breach of the rule would have cost them £250: Ballesteros, it is understood, would not have needed to apply for an overdraft to pay the fine.

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (GB and Ire unless stated): 65: P McGinley 66: R Claydon 69: S Struver (Ger), P Hall, W Westner (SA), J Payne, J Haeggman (Swe), P Affleck, R Chapman, H-P Thuel (Ger), G Ralph, R Rafferty 70: M Sunesson (Swe), B Lane, J Hawkes (SA), P Baker, J Spence, N Faldo, P Way, S Richardson, R Gibson (SA) 71: J Cocores (Arg), A Sorensen (Den), P Lawrie, A Gainer (Swe), E O'Connell, M Krantz (Swe), S Tinning (Den), F Lindgren (Swe), P Mitchell, S Ballesteros (Sp), E Els (SA), D Gilford, V Singh (Fiji), C Mason, S Ames (Trin), D Mooney (Can), M Harwood (Aus), R Karlsson (Swe).

Coker ruled out for season

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

HARLEQUINS have been told they will be unable to field Troy Coker in competitive matches until next season. The Australian international, who has appeared for Harlequins at intervals over the last five years and now intends to make his home in England, is still regarded as an overseas player and must fulfil the 180-day eligibility period.

Alwynne Evans, the registrar for the Senior Clubs Association, informed the SCA executive committee of the decision on Wednesday night and, unless Harlequins choose to appeal to the Rugby Football Union and are successful — and the precedent set over Rob Andrew's return to Wasps this season suggests that they would not be — Coker will not play either league or cup matches this season.

However, Evans, contrary to the feelings expressed in the north and west of the country, said he did not believe there was any great intensity of player movement as clubs gear themselves for a 1993-4 season in which home and away league games will be played for the first time. With the 120-day transfer period for domestic players looming in mid-February, Peter Ford, Gloucester's chairman, said: "I understand that in the north it's like a cattle auction and it's nearly as bad here. It's disgraceful."

Gloucester, threatened with relegation from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship and suffering an unprecedented loss of players this season, are to appoint a director of rugby and last Thursday night outlined to their players plans to keep the club at the top of English rugby.

The key to player movements, in a time of recession, is jobs and the Gloucester area has been hit hard by unemployment. The club admits the need for a full-time official to liaise more closely with local schools and clubs, and recruit players if necessary. They hope to appoint before the season ends.

"What the club won't do is pay players," Mickey Booth, the chairman of selectors, said. "But we have to make it attractive to play for Gloucester and our biggest priority is not to lose any more players. We have survived for 120 years on players coming from local clubs and youth teams and wanting to play for Gloucester but it appears that is not enough any more."

☐ Steve Wills, of Leicester, a former England Under-21 international utility back, has joined Nottingham, of the second division, after finding first-team opportunities hard to come by in his stay at Welford Road.


Coker: misses games

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

BOMBORA

(b) A dangerous stretch of water where the waves break over a submerged reef or rocks, Australian and New Zealand, from the Aboriginal word: "Bombora is an Aboriginal word applied to the high-crested wave which breaks, even on windless days, over submerged rocks near the coastline and in some cases at entrances to coastal harbours and inlets."

J'ADOUBE

(a) An expression used when a player wishes to touch a chessman without making a move, French for "I adjust": "If a player touch one of his adversary's pieces, without saying 'J'adoube', he may be compelled to take it."

PREMARIN

(a) A proprietary name for a mixture of oestrogenic compounds obtained from the urine of pregnant mares and used in the treatment of various conditions, esp. those caused by or involving oestrogen deficiency, portmanteau from pre(gnant) + mar(e) + in: "In these patients continued administration of premarin resulted in a suggestive, though inconclusive, improvement in mortality as compared with a comparable control group."

TOURNEE

(a) A round, circuit, tour, from the French tournée: "We did today what is called the tournee and which is visits to all the Ministers and Grand families." "When Louis Armstrong and Dave Brubeck come to Germany, their tournees take them to sold-out concert halls."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Black resigned after 1 a7! on account of 1 ...Ra8 2 Rxb7+ Kd8 3 Rb8+ Ke7 4 Rxg8 Rxg8 5 Rb8.

SNOW REPORT

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to resort	Weather	Temp °C	Last snow fall
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	80	90	new snow	new snow	snow	0	28/1
(All lifts operating. Good snow throughout area)							
Crans Montana	30	215	new snow	new snow	snow	5	28/1
(75% area open. Lower slopes much improved)							
Davos	60	210	new snow	new snow	snow	2	28/1
(More lifts, pistes opening after grooming)							
Saas Fee	45	230	new snow	good	cloudy	1	27/1
(20 lifts operating. Fog and strong winds over glacier)							
FRANCE							
Argentiere	100	330	new snow	variable	snow	1	28/1
(6 lifts open. Grands Montets especially good)							
Les Arcs	55	315	powder	new snow	snow	1	28/1
(95% area open. Great skiing above 1800m)							
Meribel	55	185	new snow	variable	snow	0	28/1
(48 lifts operating. Lower slopes much improved)							
Val d'Isère	100	165	new snow	new snow	snow	0	28/1
(90% Espace Killy open, parts closed due to avalanche danger)							
ITALY							
Cortina	15	90	hard	icy	sunny	4	9/12
(All lifts operating. Best snow upper slopes)							
Courmayeur	40	160	good	spring	fine	4	27/1
(24 lifts open. Cresta Youla closed due to strong winds)							
Livigno	50	160	new snow	variable	cloudy	0	27/1
(26 lifts operating. Lower slopes much improved)							
Madonna	50	120	hard	slick	fine	1	10/12
(21 lifts operating. Best snow Monte Grosta)							
AUSTRIA							
St Anton	200	350	new snow	new snow	snow	0	28/1
(32 lifts open. Lower slopes improved, still patchy in places)							
Kitzbuhel	25	70	new snow	new snow	snow	1	28/1
(60 lifts open. Good snow Pass Thurn, Hahnenkamm)							
Schladming	35	120	new snow	new snow	snow	-1	28/1
(All lifts open. Best snow higher up)							
Zurs	130	190	new snow	new snow	snow	-2	28/1
(All lifts in area open)							
ANDORRA							
Arinsal	25	60	fair	slick	sunny	2	25/12
(90% lifts open. Best snow upper slopes)							
Soldeu	25	50	fair	hard	sunny	2	25/12
(90% lifts operating)							

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

هكذا من الأخبل

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IN BRIEF

Pakistanis drop three for Sharjah

MPs urge transfer of Tote to BHB

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE home secretary will be urged by MPs next week to transfer the Horserace Totalisator Board to the new British Horseracing Board (BHB) by 1995.

The call from members of the all party parliamentary racing committee looks certain to prompt a fresh clash with Lord Wyatt of Weeford, chairman of the Tote, who recently ridiculed such a handover and claimed it could be "calamitous for racing."

Kenneth Clarke has been specifically asked to talk about the future of the Tote, along with Sunday racing and the role of the levy, when he addresses the committee at Westminster on Tuesday.

Jim Paice, Conservative MP for south east Cambridgeshire and chairman of the committee, said yesterday: "There is a *fairly* substantial body of political opinion that says when the BHB is up and running the Tote should somehow be moved across to the board. Whether you give it or have to buy it are problems that need to be addressed.

"There is an argument that the Tote is a nationalised operation that belongs to the country and therefore should not be given to anybody.

"However, the general feeling is that the BHB are the right people to run it. It would be unrealistic to do it until the BHB has got up and running and shown its mettle. They have more than enough on their plate without having to take over the Tote now."



Paice: not convinced the Tote has been run the best way

He added: "I would have thought if it were to coincide with the end of Lord Wyatt's term of office, that would be about right."

Lord Wyatt, aged 74, was recently reappointed chairman of the Tote, to the surprise of many in racing and at Westminster, and he is not due to step down until until April 1995.

Earlier this month, he issued a sharp rebuff to advocates of transferring the Tote after Lord Swaythling, a member of the Tote board as well as the BHB, publically backed such a switch.

The Commons home affairs select committee enquiry two years ago recommended the Tote should be taken out of Home Office control and run by racing provided fundamental changes were carried out to the way the sport is run. The creation of the BHB has, in theory, fulfilled the select committee's demands for reform.

However, Lord Wyatt, chairman of the Tote since 1976, argued three weeks ago that as all Tote profits went to racing, a change to ownership by the fledgling BHB would be pointless and counterproductive.

"Anyway, the BHB has no assets and it is laughable to suppose that it would be given the valuable Tote for nothing. I cannot foresee any change in the Tote's statutory position even after I have gone, and *certainly not* while I am here," he added.

Paice said if the BHB ran the Tote it would help maximise the returns to racing. "I am not convinced the Tote has been run the best way, or achieved the best for racing. I think there would be a lot of scope for considerably more dynamic and enterprising leadership within the Tote," he said, pointedly.

"I see no reason why the Tote should be state run. We can go back in history and there are a lot of people who believe it should have been made a monopoly, like it is in so many countries. But there is no way that is going to occur now.

"If you are going to have a competitive betting situation, there is no real need for the Tote to be in the state sector as long as you have a means of returning a proportion or all its profits to racing."

Lord Wyatt is entitled to attend Tuesday's meeting as it is open to MPs and peers. But he is far more likely to try to bend Clarke's ear in private at the Tote annual lunch in London on March 9.

[illegible]

Nap: PEAJADE
(3.50 Uttoxeter)

Next best: High Baron
(4.10 Wincanton)

David Nicholson has been anxious to find an early opportunity for **Peajade** (3.50 Uttoxeter) after his chaser was badly impeded and unseated his rider in the Warwick National last Saturday.

The nine-year-old looked to be in the process of running a sound race. He should revel in soft ground and is fancied to take advantage of a lenient mark.

High Baron (4.10 Wincanton) has been raised 11lb for winning over course and distance two weeks ago but, given the ease of his victory, that should not stop him completing a treble.

[illegible]

THUNDERER

1.40 Kiwi Velocity. 2.10 Claxton Greene. 2.40 What A To Do. 3.10 Land Of The Free. 3.40 Panto Prince. 4.10 High Baron.

GOING: SOFT

1.40 POTTERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,057: 2m 6f) (14 runners)

1 .5-21 KIWI VELOCITY 22 (S) P Hobbs 6-11-13 ... M Parker (7)
2 -043 FIRST COMMAND 15 T Forster 6-11-4 ... C Llewellyn
3 6244 FREDS MELODY 28 F Tucker 6-11-1 ... N Mann
4 P-63 SOLO BUCK 11 A Jones 7-10-11 ... G Upton
5 5-65 RIVANNA BAY 15 K Bishop 5-10-8 ... R Greene (3)
6 0-04 WELSH COTTAGE 59 J Gifford 6-10-7 ... D Murphy
7 55-0 PADDYSWAY 20 G Ham 6-10-5 ... A Maguire
8 54P2 ALLO GEORGE 59 Mrs J Wonnacott 7-10-4 ... R Edwards (7)
9 -820 MELDON 28 Mrs J Retter 5-10-4 ... M A Fitzgerald
10 500 PRUSSIAN GUARD 15 Mrs J Retter 7-10-0 ... D Salter (7)
11 00/0 PUNKY KNAVE 85 W G M Turner 7-10-0 ... P Holley
12 PPP0 COLD MARBLE 28 D R Tucker 8-10-0 ... N Hawke
13 F-0F SHIRYON 8 Mrs A Knight 8-10-0 ... J Kavanagh
14 P05- BOLT OF GOLD 261 L Waring 5-10-0 ... Lorna Vincent

11-8 Kiwi Velocity, 7-1 First Command, Welsh Cottage, 8-1 Meldon, 10-1 Freds Melody, 12-1 Solo Buck, 14-1 Allo George, Rivanna Bay, 25-1 others.

2.10 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (£3,288: 3m 1f 110yd) (14)

1 1441 ANNIO CHILONE 10 (D,S) J Gifford 7-11-10 ... P Hide (5)
2 -132 ASKINFARNEY 21 (D,S) J Upson 6-11-3 ... R Supple
3 1F2 CLAXTON GREENE 13 (S) M Pipe 9-11-3 ... J Lower
4 P-1F DERRING VALLEY 41 (D,G,S) A Jones 8-11-3 ... G Upton
5 31P4 EMILY'S STAR 9 (B,D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 ... D Bridgwater
6 -650 COBB RUN 71 R Alner 7-10-10 ... J Kavanagh
7 103- CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 269 (G,S) Mrs J Retter 7-10-10 ... M A Fitzgerald
8 P-PP HAMPER 8 (B,G,S) N Mitchell 10-10-10 ... D Skyrme
9 5-PF MAYFIELD PARK 3 C Barwell 8-10-10 ... N Mann
10 240U NEWS REVIEW 9 D Williams 10-10-10 ... Mr E Williams (7)
11 P-6P QUICK RAPOR 50 T Forster 8-10-10 ... C Llewellyn
12 2-5P ROMFUL PRINCE 79 (G,S) C Mitchell 10-10-10 ... S McNeill
13 24/P SEMAPHORE HILL 8 (F) P Hobbs 9-10-10 ... M Hourigan (3)
14 4200 SHASTON 9 (B,C,F,S) W G M Turner 8-10-10 ... P Holley

15-8 Annio Chilone, 5-2 Claxton Greene, 6-1 Askinfarney, 8-1 Emily's Star, 10-1 Derring Valley, 12-1 Crystal Heights, 20-1 News Review, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Twiston-Davies, 4 winners from 14 runners, 28.6%; M Pipe, 30 from 106, 28.3%; T Forster, 12 from 71, 16.9%; Mrs J Retter, 10 from 62, 16.1%; N Henderson, 7 from 51, 13.7%; J Gifford, 8 from 74, 10.8%.

JOCKEYS: J Lower, 8 winners from 24, 33.3% rides; M Hourigan, 3 from 15, 20.0%; D Murphy, 5 from 27, 18.5%; P Holley, 10 from 67, 14.9%; C Llewellyn, 10 from 69, 14.5%; M A Fitzgerald, 7 from 54, 13.0%.

2.40 PAT RUTHVEN AND GUY NIXON MEMORIAL VASE HANDICAP CHASE (Amateurs: £3,028: 3m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 1F6/ UP AND COMING 653 (D,F,G) N Henderson 10 12-0 ... C Vigors (7)
2 1524 SUNBEAM TALBOT 15 (D,G,S) A Jones 12-11-8 ... S Bush (7)
3 -803 RONANS BIRTHDAY 53 (CD,BF,F,G,S) P Hobbs 11-11-6 ... G Lewis (7)
4 -FP2 THATS THE BUSINESS 17 (D,F) G Balding 9-10-4 J Durkan (3)
5 4441 WHAT A TO DO 11 (S) T Forster 9-10-0 (4ex) ... T Jenks (7)
6 4/1- NAUGHTY NICKY 475 (S) K Bishop 9-10-0 ... Mrs J Litston (7)
7 F21- TAGMOUN CHAUFOUR 284 (D,G) A Barrow 8 10-0 B Pollock (7)
8 6-25 UNDER OFFER 44 (B,CD,G,S) J King 12-10-0 ... C Hancock (7)
9 P3-P PARKY PETE 50 B Scriven 12-10-0 ... R White (7)

7-2 Sunbeam Talbot, 4-1 Thats The Business, What A To Do, 9-2 Under Offer, 11-2 Ronans Birthday, 8-1 Up And Coming, 12-1 others.

3.10 SCULPTORS CLAIMING HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,704: 2m) (10)

1 221 LAND OF THE FREE 8 (S) M Pipe 11-7 ... J Lower
2 0533 MISS MARIGOLD 28 R Hodges 11-4 ... T Thompson (7)
3 055 ANOTHER VINTAGE 13 P Cundell 11-2 ... C Llewellyn
4 5U32 ATHAR 11 R Baker 11-1 ... S Burrough
5 0 BELLA RUN 11 R Hodges 11-1 ... W Irvine
6 641 RICH PICKINGS 64 (S) D R Tucker 11-1 ... N Hawke
7 P10 CHARMONIX 76 (D,G) J Joseph 10-11 ... D Skyrme
8 0 DARK VISION 9 J King 10-11 ... J Kavanagh
9 33 RIVER ORCHID 8 P Nicholls 10-11 ... M A Fitzgerald
10 QUALITAIR IDOL 158F Mrs A Knight 10-2 ... W Sterry (7)

6-4 Land Of The Free, 13-8 Athar, 13-2 Another Vintage, 8-1 River Orchid, 10-1 Rich Pickings, 12-1 Charmonix, 20-1 others.

3.40 MAURICE LISTER HANDICAP CHASE (£4,142: 2m) (6)

1 P/34 PANTO PRINCE 48 (CD,F,G,S) C Popham 12-12-0 ... S McNeill
2 2-52 AMARI KING 25 (D,F,G,S) T Forster 9-12-0 ... C Llewellyn
3 B211 BROUGHTON MANOR 7 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs J Retter 8-11-3 (5ex) ... M A Fitzgerald
4 F211 CARBONATE 14 (D,F,G,S) R Buckler 8-10-12 ... A Maguire
5 1-34 SMARTIE EXPRESS 34 (C,F,S) R Hodges 11-10-9 ... W Irvine
6 4U-U MONTALINO 7 (CD,F,G) G Humphrey 10-10-6 ... D Murphy

9-4 Broughton Manor, 3-1 Amari King, 7-2 Panto Prince, 4-1 Carbonate, 8-1 Smartie Express, 14-1 Montalino.

4.10 PAINTERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,616: 2m) (11)

1 -U11 HIGH BARON 15 (CD,F,S) R Alner 6-12-0 ... M Hourigan (3)
2 42/5 ROWLANDSONS GEMS 8 (D,F) P Leach 8-11-4 ... S Hodgson
3 0083 REDGRAVE GIRL 15 (CD,F,G,S) K Bishop 11-10-13 D Hobbs (7)
4 05-6 MOTTRAM'S GOLD 8 (CD,G,S) Mrs J Retter 8-10-10 ... M A Fitzgerald
5 3360 JADIDH 7 (C,G,S) Mrs J Dawe 5-10-6 ... D Salter (7)
6 21/4 SKITTLE ALLEY 22 (D,G) S Mellor 7-10-6 ... M Perrett
7 001- PECHE D'OR 262 (D,F,G,S) H Haynes 9-10-5 ... Mr G Lewis (7)
8 4448 FREE JUSTICE 28 (D,S) A J Wilson 9-10-0 ... A Maguire
9 /PU- OTHET 293 (D,F) Mrs S Williams 9-10-0 ... S McNeill
10 00-0 GALAGAMES 24 (D,G) R Buckler 6-10-0 ... Mr C Bonner (7)
11 D40R SANDRO 8 (B,F,G) R Baker 4-10-0 ... W McFarland
12 6-0P SEXTON 9 N Ayliffe 8-10-0 ... D Bridgwater

4-6 High Baron, 5-1 Mottram's Gold, 8-1 Skittle Alley, 14-1 Rowlandson's Gems, Peche D'Or, 16-1 Jadidh, 25-1 others.

[illegible]

THUNDERER

1.00 Pandessa. 1.30 Springholm. 2.00 DREAMERS DELIGHT (nap). 2.35 Arthur's Minstrel. 3.05 I'm Toby. 3.35 Barge Boy. 4.05 Srivijaya.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.05 SRIVIJAYA.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM PATCH 8TH FENCE — SIS

1.00 SELBY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,874: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 244204 GYMCRAK GAMBLE 14 (F) (T Dyer) T Dyer 5-12-0 ... A Linton (7) 77
2 1-433P0 RHOMAN COIN 9 (B,S) (M Gossa) B Rothwell 5-11-10 ... G Cahill (7) 76
3 20-06 RING CORBITTS 15 (Equinome Ltd) D Eddy 5-11-10 ... N Leech 50
4 44112P- DAWADAR 377 (D,F,G) (R Gomersall) N Tinkler 6-11-8 ... B Midgley 96
5 21-1421 PANDESSA 14 (D,F,G,S) (R Tindall) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-7 ... R Hodge 99
6 531FU-3 RAAWI 20 (CD,F) (J Sisionsl) J Glover 5-11-6 ... [illegible]
7 12/5305 AS D'EBOLI 14 (B,F) (N Jackson) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-2 ... W Dwan 93

BETTING: 10-11 Dawadar, 5-2 Pandessa, 4-1 Raawi, 12-1 As D'Eboli, 16-1 Gymcrak Gamble, 25-1 Rhoman Coin, 33-1 Ring Corbitts

1992: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

GYMCRAK GAMBLE ¾l 2nd of 13 to Charlotte's Emma in a handicap hurdle at Catterick in November (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). DAWADAR 1¼l 2nd of 5 to Ballyford in a handicap hurdle at Edinburgh on penultimate start last season (2m 4f, good). PANDESSA beat Valiant Dash 1½l in a 10-runner conditional jockeys' claiming hurdle at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good), with AS D'EBOLI (8lb better off) 29l 5th. Previously, 3½l 2nd of 14 to Sexy Mover in an amateurs' handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft), with GYMCRAK GAMBLE (6lb worse off) 7¾l 4th. RAAWI 8l 3rd of 15 to Celcius in a claiming hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft). AS D'EBOLI 4¼l 3rd of 7 to Bighayir in a claiming hurdle at Haydock in December (2m 4f, soft).
Selection: PANDESSA

1.30 BARNBY MOOR HANDICAP CHASE (£3,318: 2m 3f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 115233 PALM READER 79 (CD,F) (Miss S Turner) P Cheesbrough 9-12-0 ... C Grant 86
2 42-3323 SPRINGHOLM 9 (D,F,G,S) (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 11-10-7 ... R Dunwoody 99
3 1F4U-30 TAKEMETHERE 49 (D,F,S) (J Greenwood) M Pipe 9-10-3 ... D Richmond (5) 96
4 FP-32P8 HALF BROTHER 21 (D,G,S) (P Bonner) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-3 ... B de Haan 98
5 1/PPUP/ WESTERN TRUCE 667 (F) (Mrs R Wilson) J Webber 10-10-0 ... M Lynch —
6 U3-32R2 ALAN BALL 49 (B,G) (A Hill) Miss S Wilton 7-10-0 ... J Osborne 78

Long handicap: Western Truce 9-4, Alan Ball 9-1.

BETTING: 9-4 Springholm, 11-4 Palm Reader, 100-30 Takemethere, 4-1 Half Brother, 11-2 Alan Ball, 100-1 Western Truce.

FORM FOCUS

PALM READER 12l 3rd of 6 to Clay County in a handicap chase at Kelso on penultimate start (2m 1f, good). SPRINGHOLM 7l 3rd of 8 to Pithy in a handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, soft). TAKEMETHERE 15l 9th of 17 to Castle King in a handicap chase over course and distance (good). HALF BROTHER 7¼l 3rd of 5 to The Green Stuff in a handicap chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, heavy). ALAN BALL 7l 2nd of 10 to Mega Blue in a conditional jockeys' handicap chase here (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: SPRINGHOLM

2.00 ROSSINGTON MAIN NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £6,640: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 5/11122 DREAMERS DELIGHT 20 (D,G,S) (Mrs H Clarke) D Nicholson 7-11-9 ... R Dunwoody 95
2 2-11211 FRICKLEY 27 (CD,G,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-9 ... N Doughty 99
3 21-511 STORMHEAD 14 (D,F,S) (M Oberstein) O Sherwood 5-11-9 ... J Osborne 91
4 00-101 RINGLAND 27 (D,G) (R Moffat) D Moffatt 5-11-5 ... D J Moffatt 81
5 233-52 VASILIEV 17 (S) (R Houlton) J Leigh 5-11-5 ... M Brennan 90

BETTING: 11-10 Frickley, 9-4 Stormhead, 5-2 Dreamers Delight, 20-1 Ringland, 25-1 Vasiliev.

FORM FOCUS

DREAMERS DELIGHT neck 2nd of 7 to Sun Surfer in the grade I Tolworth Novices' Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft). Previously, 1½l 2nd of 9 to Sallo Lover in the grade II Laurels Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft). FRICKLEY beat Dizzy 2¼l in a 15-runner handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). Previously, beat Ascot 2l in a 17-runner novice hurdle over course and distance with VASILIEV (3lb worse off) 4¼l 5th and RINGLAND (1lb better off) 12¾l 7th. STORMHEAD beat Sparkling Sunset 3½l in a 15-runner novice hurdle at Ascot last time out (2m 110yd, heavy). RINGLAND beat Abetoni ½l in a 13-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). VASILIEV 2l 2nd of 18 to Parley in a novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft).
Selection: DREAMERS DELIGHT (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
O Sherwood	5	12	41.7	P Niven	13	39	33.3
M Pipe	4	11	36.4	W Dwan	3	9	33.3
D Murray Smith	3	9	33.3	R Garritty	3	19	15.8
J Edwards	11	36	30.6	J Osborne	3	21	14.3
M H Easterby	6	24	25.0	M Lynch	3	22	13.6
Mrs M Reveley	9	42	21.4	M Dwyer	3	26	11.5

2.35 SANDALL BEAT NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,029: 3m) (19 runners)

1 2-2U2P2 MUSTHAVEASWIG 9 (P D Fasteners Ltd) D Nicholson 7-11-10 ... R Dunwoody 90
2 1814F4 INTO THE TREES 13 (D,F,S) (R Tate) R Tate 9-11-5 ... Mrs F Needham 84
3 12-2222 ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 55 (F,S) (B Hathaway) P Cheesbrough 6-11-4 ... C Grant 88
4 01/0-1FP SHERIFF'S BAND 73 (B,S) (I Armitage) M H Easterby 6-10-12 ... R Garritty 92
5 10-055 OSMOSIS 41 (C,F) (M Mellersh) D Murray Smith 7-10-5 ... J White 81
6 06P0-U5 BRUCE'S CASTLE 11 (Mrs B Bell) B Rothwell 7-10-5 ... B Storey 91
7 332F-4F RYTON GUARD 53 (BF) (Mrs A Ireland) S Christian 8-10-4 ... T Reed 99
8 35P0-4P WOODLAND FLOWER 24 (G) (Mrs J Dibben) O Sherwood 8-10-3 ... J Osborne 88
9 0/3F2F7 BAWNRUADH 832 (D,BF,G) (T Dyer) T Dyer 8-10-3 ... P Harley —
10 65-8P33 CATCHAPENNY 41 (S) (C Courage) M Wilkinson 8-10-3 ... S J O'Neill 92
11 0P6/526- NEEDWOOD FOREST 389 (Needwood Racing Ltd) B Morgan 10-10-1 ... L Harvey 81
12 31-2FP6 MR TITTLE TATTLE 28 (G,F) (Mrs J Newton) K Bailey 7-10-1 ... A Tory 98
13 6U0-23 CARRICKROVADDY 24 (Mrs D Coleman) B Smart 7-10-1 ... B de Haan 95
14 U0P/5PP JESSOP 22 (S Tindall) S Mellor 8-10-1 ... S Earle —
15 00P-60 CAIRNEYMOUNT 71 (Mrs C Fairbairn) J Edwards 7-10-1 ... D Gallagher —
16 36425P- PRECIOUS MEMORIES 365 (G) (J McCann) M Naughton 8-10-1 ... C Dennis (3) 86
17 00F6F3 TRAVAIL TEMPORAIRE 21 (B) (Tussall Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-1 ... M Lynch 88
18 5338/P WAR HEAD 15 (J Hindley) M Hammond 10-10-1 ... D Bentley (5) —
19 60UP-06 KELLY OWENS 23 (Bain Racing) N Smith 8-10-1 ... P Leech —

BETTING: 4-1 Arthur's Minstrel, 9-2 Musthaveaswig, 11-2 Ryton Guard, 8-1 Osmosis, 10-1 Catchapenny, 12-1 Into The Trees, Mr Tittle Tattle, 14-1 Cairneymount.

FORM FOCUS

MUSTHAVEASWIG 7l 2nd of 18 to Gay Ruffian in a novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, soft). ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 8l 2nd of 8 to Whispering Steel in a novice chase at Haydock (3m, soft). RYTON GUARD 20l 4th of 16 to Winnie The Witch in a novice chase at Warwick on penultimate start (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). WOODLAND FLOWER 14l 4th of 17 to Dublin Flyer in a novice chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start, with OSMOSIS (3lb better off) 5l 5th. CARRICKROVADDY 19l 3rd of 16 to Fast Study in a novice chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, soft), with WOODLAND FLOWER pulled up.
Selection: RYTON GUARD

3.05 CUSWORTH NOVICES HURDLE (£2,109: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

1 COLERIDGE 13F (B) (P Sheehan) D Shaw 5-10-12 ... S D Williams (5) —
2 4P- DAVID JOHN 20 (Mrs D Barrington) S Christian 5-10-12 ... J Osborne 86
3 3 FARAT 34 (Lord Swaythling) N Henderson 5-10-12 ... R Dunwoody 86
4 62-03 HAWTHORNE GLEN 10 (R Stone) A Dawson 5-10-12 ... D Gallagher 78
5 60P0F- HIGH CASTE 278 (H Moszkowicz) B Morgan 5-10-12 ... L Harvey —
6 4/PP-0 HIGHLAND BALLY 15 (K Tasson) M Avison 5-10-12 ... R Garritty —
7 5-2 I'M TOBY 15 (D Armitage) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-10-12 ... M Dwyer 99
8 0-3305 SMITH TOO 22 (Smith Mansfield Meat Co Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 ... M Pitman 95

BETTING: 6-5 I'm Toby, 5-4 Farat, 7-1 Smith Too, 10-1 David John, 33-1 Coleridge, 50-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

DAVID JOHN 9½l 4th of 12 to Martin in a novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). FARAT, useful staying handicapper on the Flat, 30½l 3rd of 10 to Sallo Lover in a novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft). HAWTHORNE GLEN 11l 3rd of 9 to Lough Brown in a novice handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft). I'M TOBY ¾l 2nd of 19 to Programmed To Win in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f, soft), with HIGHLAND RALLY 57¼l 7th. SMITH TOO 1¼l 3rd of 21 to Thumbs Up in a novice hurdle at Aintree in November (2m 110yd, soft). COLERIDGE, fair staying handicapper on the Flat, beat Mizyan 1½l in a 10-runner handicap at Lingfield (AW, 2m, standard).
Selection: I'M TOBY

3.35 BALBY NOVICES CHASE (£2,818: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1 0-65011 MONTPELIER LAD 8 (D,F,G,S) (S Little) G Richards 6-11-6 ... N Doughty 94
2 21143-4 BARGE BOY 98 (CD,F,G) (C House) J Old 9-11-0 ... T Grantham —
3 FF-2235 BELSTONE FOX 6 (G) (Mrs R Starr) D Nicholson 8-11-0 ... R Dunwoody 85
4 152-323 COPPER MINE 28 (B,D,BF,F,G) (J Dougall) O Sherwood 7-11-0 ... J Osborne 99
5 U3-3520 HOLDENBY 27 (D,F,G,S) (D Bowler) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-0 ... P Niven 89
6 00-0503 KEEP SHARP 16 (Hart & Co Insurance Brokers Ltd) Mrs S Smith 7-11-0 ... A Orkney —
7 PP06/3F- MIDNIGHT STORY 289 (Mrs C Fortescue) A Davison 8-11-0 ... D Gallagher —
8 1100/42 QUENTIN DURWOOD 22 (D,BF,S) (Mrs R Bonner) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0 ... M Pitman —
9 60-5435 TOP VILLAIN 9 (D,BF,F) (R Frost) B Rothwell 7-11-0 ... B Storey —

BETTING: 13-8 Montpelier Lad, 9-2 Belstone Fox, 5-1 Holdenby, 6-1 Copper Mine, 8-1 Barge Boy, 10-1 Quentin Durwood, 16-1 Midnight Story, 25-1 Top Villain, 33-1 Keep Sharp.

FORM FOCUS

MONTPELIER LAD beat Antonin 2½l in a 5-runner novice handicap chase at Ayr (2m, soft). BARGE BOY, useful handicap hurdler, 10¼l 4th of 8 to Mighty Mogul in a handicap hurdle at Newbury in October (2m 110yd, good). COPPER MINE 17l 3rd of 17 to Sailors Luck in a novice handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good to soft). HOLDENBY 5l 2nd of 12 to Qualitair Sound in a handicap hurdle here in December (2m 110yd, good to soft), with MONTPELIER LAD (1lb better off) 18l 9th. QUENTIN DURWOOD 3¼l 2nd of 8 to Olveston in a handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, heavy).
Selection: MONTPELIER LAD

4.05 BESSACAR HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,831: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

1 311321 STAR OF THE GLEN 46 (D,F,G,S) (J Home Computers) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-10 M Pitman 88
2 341/6P TRIPLE TOP 69 (V,D,F,G) (R Roberts) K White 8-11-7 ... A O'Hagan —
3 6-F6602 SONG OF SIXPENCE 8 (D,F) (P Mellon) I Balding 8-11-7 ... J Frost 95
4 /124/06 PRINCE JUAN 8 (B,D,S) (Mrs A Smith) M Bradstock 6-11-2 ... R Dunwoody —
5 01-3210 GALLATEEN 48 (D,F,G,S) (E Madden) G Richards 5-11-2 ... N Doughty 89
6 001/0P BIG DIAMOND 10 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Phipps) I Campbell 9-11-1 ... —
7 3110-06 FOX CHAPEL 7 (D,G) (K Badge) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-1 ... M Dwyer 86
8 45665-0 CREEAGER 48 (CD,G,S) (J Berry) J Wharton 11-11-0 ... B Dalton (7) 90
9 3132-02 SRIVIJAYA 7 (D,F,G) (K Holder) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 ... P Niven 99
10 480-114 OUR SLIMBRIDGE 48 (D,G) (Mrs S Foster) C Williams 5-10-8 ... A Carroll 88
11 000256 FIERY SUN 16 (V,D,F) (Miss M Dodgson) R Barr 8-10-5 ... C Grant 92
12 233-4FP BUMPTIOUS BOY 28 (D,F) (T Pilkington) A J Wilson 9-10-0 ... J Osborne 78
13 201P/81 CHELWORTH RAIDER 77 (D,F,G) (R Giles) J Spearing 7-10-0 ... V Slattery (5) 84
14 6P-0PP SOCKEM 48 (C Williams) C Williams 6-10-0 ... S Keightley —

Long handicap: Chelworth Raider 9-10, Sockem 8-8.

BETTING: 9-4 Fox Chapel, 4-1 Srivijaya, 6-1 Our Slimbridge, 7-1 Star Of The Glen, 8-1 Gallateen, 12-1 Song Of Sixpence, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

STAR OF THE GLEN beat Cream And Green 10l in a 10-runner handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). SONG OF SIXPENCE 10l 2nd of 7 to Valfinet in a handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, soft), with PRINCE JUAN (5lb better off) 50l 6th. GALLATEEN beat Willie Sparkle ½l in a 8-runner handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2l, soft). SRIVIJAYA 2½l 2nd of 15 to Gymcrak Stardom in a handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft), with FOX CHAPEL (1lb better off) 18¾l 6th. OUR SLIMBRIDGE 7¼l 4th of 13 to Sillars Stalker in a handicap hurdle here (2m 4f, good to soft), with CREEAGER (same terms) 15l 12th and SOCKEM (3lb better off) tailed off when pulled up after 7th. CHELWORTH RAIDER beat Prosequendo a head in a 11-runner handicap hurdle at Huntingdon in November (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: OUR SLIMBRIDGE

Promotion for Young Hustler

YOUNG Hustler has been promoted to 9-2 favourite (from 5-1) by Ladbrokes for the Great Yorkshire Chase at Doncaster tomorrow.

The move was prompted by trainer Nicky Henderson's announcement that Le Piccolage is a "very doubtful" runner. A stable spokeswoman added: "We have found a large amount of filling in a hind leg and he is very doubtful."

Henderson will still be represented in the race by Parsons Green, the mount of John Kavanagh.

Otterburn House was also shortened, from 7-1 to 5-1 second favourite.

Very Very Ordinary, the original favourite, was confirmed a non-runner yesterday by John Upson.

After walking the course — described as good with a good to firm patch at the eighth fence — Upson decided that conditions were too fast for his improving jumper. He now intends to run Very Very Ordinary at Ascot a week on Wednesday.

The chances of Morley Street running at Cheltenham tomorrow are slipping away unless rain falls at the course.

Caro Balding, wife of trainer Toby, is inspecting the track early today before connections decide whether to commit the horse to the Wyko Power Transmission Hurdle.

Morley Street's owner, Michael Jackson, fears that the surface could start to dry out, making conditions too sticky.

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THUNDERER

1.20 Sedge Warbler. 1.50 Dr Rocket. 2.20 Mick's Tycoon. 2.50 Gay Ruffian. 3.20 Argakios. 3.50 Brompton Road. 4.20 Duncan Idaho.

GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN BACK STRAIGHT) — SIS

1.20 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,267: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 4184 ARDLUSSA BAY 15 (D,S) J Jefferson 5-11-5 ... M Dwyer
2 F0-P KELLY'S COURT 11 D Wintle 7-10-12 ... R Davis (5)
3 P-R4 LUCKY HARVEST 46 Mrs A Ratcliff 6-10-12 ... H Davies
4 3333 MISS SHAW 15 E Owen jun 7-10-12 ... A Larnach (5)
5 00-0 POP ABROAD 7 P Bevan 8-10-12 ... T Wall
6 3-42 SEDGE WARBLER 15 O Sherwood 6-10-12 ... M Richards
7 00-5 WENRISC 53 D Nicholson 6-10-12 ... W Marston (3)
8 14 WILD BRAMBLE 49 (BF,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12 ... P Niven

5-4 Sedge Warbler, 7-4 Wild Bramble, 8-1 Ardlussa Bay, 12-1 Miss Shaw, 16-1 Wenrisc, 20-1 others.

1.50 CALENDARS RESTAURANT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,158: 2m) (4)

1 3123 BAD TRADE 52 (C,D,G,S) P Cheesbrough 11-12-0 ... A Larnach
2 51U6 UP-A-POINT 11 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 8-11-10 ... B Clifford
3 233U DR ROCKET 3 (D,F,G,S) R Dickin 8-11-1 ... D Meredith
4 3221 PITHY 9 (D,G,S) R Price 11-10-13 (5ex) ... D Leahy

6-4 Dr Rocket, 2-1 Pithy, 7-2 Up-A-Point, 4-1 Bad Trade.

2.20 ED WEETMAN HAULAGE & STORAGE SELLING HURDLE (£1,843: 2m 4f 110yd) (17)

1 1312 MICK'S TYCOON 21 (V,BF,G,S) M Pipe 5-12-8 ... P Scudamore
2 0/ BAROMNEY 762 B McMahon 7-11-5 ... S Spence (7)
3 PP50 CHAMOIS BOY 7 (B,G,S) R Frost 9-11-5 ... J Frost
4 20-F CORLY SPECIAL 50 (F) L Codd 6-11-5 ... S Turner
5 P-40 DUCKHAVEN 32 (B,G,S) R Baker 10-11-5 ... R Farrant (5)
6 /0PP GOLDEN CROFT 44 (F,S) D McCain 10-11-5 ... Mr D McCain (5)
7 13-P INVITE D'HONNEUR 67 (D,BF,G) C Broad 11-11-5 Jacqui Oliver
8 -535 JOHNSTED 142 (G) W Clay 7-11-5 ... Diane Clay
9 P-00 LOCHERRE 16 (V,S) B Baugh 9-11-5 ... G Lyons
10 0546 MARCH ABOVE 21 (B,C,G) B Stevens 7-11-5 ... M Stevens (7)
11 3-44 POLECROFT 87 (D,G,S) D Burchell 10-11-5 ... D J Burchell
12 00U B'N'B LADY 9 R Evans 5-11-0 ... J Pullin (7)
13 50PP CALORA 11 (B,G,S) M Meade 6-11-0 ... J Railton
14 650- LISA ROSA 293 (C,G) Miss S Wilton 6-11-0 ... G McCourt
15 3140 LOVE ON THE ROCKS 45 (S) R Price 8-11-0 ... D Tegg
16 P-55 NEEDWOOD POPPY 13 B Morgan 5-11-0 ... B Clifford (5)
17 9641 NORSTOCK 3 (D,F,G,S) J White 6-11-0 ... K Comerford (7)

2-1 Mick's Tycoon, 4-1 Norstock, 5-1 Polecroft, 8-1 Invite D'Honneur, 10-1 Lisa Rosa, Duckhaven, 14-1 Corley Special, 16-1 others.

2.50 ROCESTER FC NOVICES CHASE (£2,944: 2m 5f) (9)

1 6-11 GAY RUFFIAN 8 (G,S) M Pipe 7-12-0 ... P Scudamore
2 FF8F COMEDY SPY 4 Mrs A Hewitt 9-11-7 ... R Bellamy
3 4233 CONCERT PAPER 15 (G,S) R O'Leary 9-11-7 ... G Bradley
4 44F0 CRAFTY CHAPLAIN 9 P Bevan 7-11-7 ... T Wall
5 60-2 LE BUCHERON 10 (F,G) M Ryan 7-11-7 ... G McCourt
6 301- MOUNTSHANNON 284 (G) C Trietline 7-11-7 ... N Williamson
7 0FP- SPRINGVALE CRUSADE 286 (S) L Codd 10-11-7 ... S Turner
8 5410 THE LAUGHING LORD 92 (F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 7-11-7 ... Mr A Thornton (5)
9 /6P/ TURN'EM BACK JACK 1413 (F,G,S) A Bailey 10-11-7 ... S Smith Eccles

1-2 Gay Ruffian, 9-2 Le Bucheron, 6-1 The Laughing Lord, 10-1 Concert Paper, 16-1 Mountshannon, 20-1 others.

3.20 HBLB NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,008: 3m 110yd) (9)

1 33/ SURCOAT 533F R Baker 6-11-10 ... R Farrant (5)
2 6P33 EXPRESS REALE 22 (S) T Thomson Jones 8-11-5 ... S Smith Eccles
3 0101 MISS CAPULET 41 (B,CD,G,S) T Donnelly 6-11-5 ... T Eley (5)
4 144 CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN 17 (G) R Brotherton 5-11-4 ... Diane Clay
5 /43 ARGAKIOS 23 (V) D Burchell 6-11-3 ... D J Burchell
6 0401 MURPHAIDEEZ 13 (S) R Earnshaw 6-10-11 ... R Hodge
7 6-36 HOW DOUDO 24 (S) S Coathan 6-10-6 ... G McCourt
8 0-6P PEMARTH 41 Mrs N Sharpe 7-10-0 ... M Bosley
9 P-00 THE DIFFERENCE 13 C Smith 6-10-0 ... M Ranger

5-2 Express Reale, 3-1 Murphaideez, 9-2 Miss Capulet, 6-1 Argakios, 7-1 Captain My Captain, 10-1 How Doudo, 16-1 others.

3.50 BARRY D TRENTHAM CHALLENGE BOWL (Handicap chase: £3,501: 3m 2f) (8)

1 -11P GOODSHOT RICH 21 (D,G,S) C Brooks 9-11-10 ... G Bradley
2 3424 ARCTIC TEAL 17 (B,CD,F,G,S) O Sherwood 9-11-4 ... M Richards
3 312F DIRECT 20 (D,S) J Edwards 10-11-3 ... N Williamson
4 -P12 BROMPTON ROAD 11 (D,BF,G,S) R Lee 10-11-1 ... D Tegg
5 11F0 OVER THE DEEL 60 (CD,BF,F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 7-11-0 ... Mr A Thornton (5)
6 -212 CAPTAIN FRISK 70 (BF,S) K Bailey 10-10-10 ... P Scudamore
7 -21U PEAJADE 6 (G,S) D Nicholson 9-10-9 ... W Marston (3)
8 /P/3 FEILE NA HINSE 20 (G) R Champion 10-10-0 ... H Davies

11-4 Peajade, 7-2 Direct, 4-1 Brompton Road, 7-1 Captain Frisk, 8-1 Over The Deel, 12-1 Goodshot Rich, 14-1 Arctic Teal, 20-1 Feile Na Hinse.

4.20 LADBROKE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,624: 3m 110yd) (7)

1 3310 VADO VIA 14 (G,S) D Wintle 5-11-10 ... R Davis (5)
2 0-4P TARKOVSKY 70 (D,S) R Lee 8-11-2 ... Leanne Eldredge (7)
3 -F04 SOUND OF ISLAY 74 (G) T Forster 8-11-0 ... H Davies
4 044F DUNCAN IDAHO 13 (CD,G,S) R Callow 10-10-5 ... I Lawrence
5 58-6 DOLLY WARDANCE 4 (S) T Donnelly 10-10-2 ... T Eley (5)
6 /P50- ROSEHIP 429 (D,F) P Cheesbrough 8-10-0 ... A Larnach (5)
7 5/3/ TAXI LAD 818 (S) R Brazington 9-10-0 ... R J Beggan

9-4 Duncan Idaho, 11-4 Sound Of Islay, 7-2 Vado Via, 7-1 Tarkovsky, 12-1 Dolly Wardance, 16-1 Rosehip, 20-1 Taxi Lad.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 37 winners from 104 runners, 35.6%; T Forster, 9 from 27, 33.3%; C Brooks, 8 from 29, 27.6%; M Ryan, 3 from 13, 23.1%; D Nicholson, 5 from 22, 22.7%; O Sherwood, 8 from 36, 22.2%.

JOCKEYS: Jacqui Oliver, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%; P Scudamore, 29 from 79, 36.7%; P Niven, 5 from 19, 26.3%; T Eley, 6 from 24, 25.0%; S Smith Eccles, 14 from 57, 24.6%; G McCourt, 16 from 78, 20.5%.

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THUNDERER

1.55 Daaniera. 2.25 Honey Vision. 2.55 No Submission. 3.25 Golden Klair. 3.55 Lord Naskra. 4.25 Well And Truly.

GOING: STANDARD — SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.55 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,259: 6f) (7 runners)

1 2-11 PLAY HEVER GOLF 11 (CD) T Naughton 9-8 (7ex) ... W Ryan 6
2 2-21 DAANIERA 18 (CD,S) J Berry 9-7 ... Emma O'Gorman (3) 3
3 000- MATTHEW DAVID 86 (CD) M Brittain 8-12 ... J Marshall (7) 2
4 04-2 STARDUST EXPRESS 13 (D) M Johnston 8-10 Dean McKeown 5
5 4814 COMET WHIRLPOOL 11 (B,CD) Pat Mitchell 8-7 ... J Quinn 4
6 03-3 MISSED THE BOAT 21 T Barron 8-6 ... V Halliday (7) 7
7 3-03 LARN FORT 11 (B) T Fairhurst 7-12 ... J Fanning 1

5-2 Daaniera, 11-4 Play Hever Golf, 9-2 Comet Whirlpool, 7-1 Larn Fort, 8-1 Stardust Express, 10-1 Missed The Boat, 16-1 Matthew David.

2.25 DANETHORPE MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (£2,070: 6f) (9)

1 5-03 BAYIN 7 M Usher 4-9-0 ... D Wright (7) 4
2 6 BUZBOUR 7 D Chapman 5-9-0 ... S Wood 8
3 5-22 EXPRESS SERVICE 7 (B) W O'Gorman 4-9-0 ... Emma O'Gorman (3) 1
4 006- LAST STRAW 44 A Jones 5-9-0 ... D Pears (5) 2
5 0- OFFAS IMAGE 51 J Bradley 5-9-0 ... D Biggs 9
6 4-30 GIRTON DEGREE 4 B McMahon 4-8-9 ... Dean McKeown 7
7 0-32 HONEY VISION 15 (B) G Eden 4-8-9 ... G Bardwell 3
8 62- LOS ANGELES 86 P Felgate 4-8-9 ... J Fanning 6
9 WEE SARAH T Barron 5-8-9 ... Alex Greaves 5

2-1 Express Service, 3-1 Los Angeles, 7-2 Honey Vision, 7-1 Girton Degree, 8-1 Bayin, 12-1 Wee Sarah, 14-1 others.

2.55 FACKLEY CLAIMING STAKES (£2,469: 1m) (11)

1 0-11 NO SUBMISSION 7 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-8 ... S Wood 3
2 3-33 SILVER SAMURAI 7 (CD,F,G) Mrs V Aconley 4-8-12 ... S Maloney (7) 1
3 03/ THEMAAM 485 T Thomson Jones 4-8-12 ... Dean McKeown 4
4 000- MAHZOOZ 154 J Pearce 4-8-8 ... G Bardwell 2
5 0-54 NOBALS FRIEND 22 (V) D Haydn Jones 4-8-7 ... J Williams 8
6 -331 LOCK KEEPER 14 (CD) C Hill 7-8-6 ... J Quinn 11
7 00-0 CAL'S BOY 11 (B) J Smith 4-8-4 ... R Lappin 6
8 1-00 DIGGER DOYLE 7 (C) C Allen 4-8-4 ... F Norton (3) 7
9 33/0 LILY'S LOVER 25 (G) D Burchell 7-8-2 ... NON-RUNNER 5
10 400/ BOLD SPARK 470J (C) J Bradley 5-8-0 ... J Fanning 6
11 0 THE OLD MITRE 28 B McMahon 5-7-7 ... D Wright (7) 10

4-6 No Submission, 4-1 Lock Keeper, 8-1 Digger Doyle, 10-1 others.

3.25 CARLTON-ON-TRENT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,343: 7f) (7)

1 111- GOLDEN KLAIR 32 (CD) C Hill 9-7 ... J Quinn 5
2 1 BOLD STREET 13 (D) A Bailey 8-13 ... D Wright (7) 6
3 200- ASHOVER 143 T Barron 8-13 ... Alex Greaves 1
4 200- QUICK SILVER BOY 158 D Burchell 8-9 ... L Charnock 7
5 604- KINGSTON BROWN 210 D Loder 8-0 ... F Norton (3) 3
6 000- PAINT THE WIND 45 (B) R Fisher 7-7 ... J Fanning 2
7 000- ANDREW'S EXPRESS 115 (B) S Kettlewell 7-7 ... S Wood 4

6-4 Golden Klair, 2-1 Bold Street, 8-1 Quick Silver Boy, Ashover, 10-1 others.

3.55 EAKRING HANDICAP (£2,490: 1m) (10)

1 223- ADMIRALS SECRET 222 (CD) C Wall 4-10-0 ... S Webster 2
2 3-51 SIRTELIMAR 14 (CD) R Spicer 4-9-7 ... J McLaughlin 5
3 00-1 LORD NASKRA 4 (V,C) W O'Gorman 4-9-4 ... Emma O'Gorman (3) 1
4 02-0 GUESSTIMATION 11 J Pearce 4-9-1 ... G Bardwell 3
5 20-1 QUINZII MARTIN 22 (V,C,D) D Haydn Jones 5-9-1 J Williams 6
6 100- BALLYRANTER 32 (D,G) H Collingridge 4-9-0 ... J Quinn 9
7 3-65 MENTALASANYTHIN 20 (D,BF,S) N Tinkler 4-9-0 ... Kim Tinkler 8
8 00-3 BOROCAY 21 M Camacho 5-8-5 ... L Charnock 7
9 004- ROYAL ACCLAIM 43 (V,D,F,S) J Bradley 8-8-3 ... J Fanning 4
10 0/4 TIBBS INN 26 C Smith 4-7-12 ... J Tate (7) 10

7-2 Sirtelimar, 9-2 Lord Naskra, 11-2 Quinzii Martin, 6-1 Admirals Secret, 7-1 Borocay, 8-1 Mentalasanythin, 12-1 Bally Ranter, 14-1 others.

4.25 BALDERTON HANDICAP (£2,511: 1m 6f) (12)

1 1542- CLASSIC ACCOUNT 32 (S) Mrs V Aconley 5-10-0 S Maloney (7) 4
2 21-4 MALENOIR 14 (C,D,BF,G) R Spicer 5-9-5 ... S Wynne (5) 5
3 32-5 MINGUS 23J (S) R Fisher 6-9-0 ... D Nicholls 12
4 1331 BEDOUIN PRINCE 7 (CD) B Richmond 6-9-0 (5ex) T Williams 11
5 62-1 ROMANIAN 20 R Akehurst 5-8-11 ... J Quinn 7
6 /214 WELL AND TRULY 14 (C) B McMahon 6-8-6 ... D Biggs 6
7 00/0/ SEE DOUBLE YOU 472 (F) D Haydn Jones 7-8-4 L Charnock 9
8 /0/0- VANDA'S GIRL 385 A Bailey 5-8-3 ... D Wright (7) 10
9 -242 MASTER'S CROWN 11 M Chapman 5-8-1 ... D McCabe (7) 8
10 0-60 LIZZIE DRIPPIN 7 M Usher 4-7-12 ... F Norton (3) 3
11 800- BLUE DISC 354J R Hollinshead 8-7-10 ... M Humphries (7) 2
12 40-4 ROYAL VERSE 7 (F) R Curtis 6-7-7 ... G Bardwell 1

7-2 Master's Crown, 4-1 Bedouin Prince, 5-1 Romanian, 6-1 Well And Truly, 8-1 Malenoir, 10-1 Royal Verse, Mingus, 12-1 Classic Account, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Akehurst, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; T Barron, 59 from 257, 23.0%; W O'Gorman, 35 from 163, 21.5%; J Pearce, 8 from 42, 19.0%; R Spicer, 4 from 21, 19.0%; J Berry, 26 from 156, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: D McCabe, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; Alex Greaves, 58 from 225, 25.8%; Emma O'Gorman, 29 from 163, 17.8%; V Halliday, 3 from 18, 16.7%; J McLaughlin, 3 from 19, 15.8%; D Pears, 5 from 33, 15.2%.

There are no horses blinkered or visored for the first time at Southwell today.

[illegible]

Huntingdon

Going: good (chases course); good to soft (hurdles)

1.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, NIGHT WIND (S McNeill, 7-1); 2, Lumumba Days (J Railton, 12-1); 3, Factor Ten (M Richards, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Poors Wood (4th), 8 Winnowing (f), 9 Dan de Lyon (bd), Father Ralph (6th), 14 Millies Own, 20 Divine Chance (ur), Fair Plume, 25 Bedfield (bd), Cheryl's Pet, Father Fortune, Mirage of Windsor, Needwood Native, 33 Aldington Chapple (pu), Favoured Victor (5th), Nagobelia, 50 Bruce Buckley, 100 The Overtrumper. 20 ran. NR: Celtic Laird. 1½l, nk, nk, 5l, 4l. A Turnell at East Hendred. Tote: £7.50; £2.50, £3.90, £4.20. DF: £31.50. CSF: £87.33.

1.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, CASINO MAGIC (W Marston, 33-1); 2, Socks Downe (B Clifford, 14-1); 3, Owen (J McCarthy, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Skinnhill (4th), 5 Mr Paw, 11-2 Trojan Call (f), 8 Master Comedy (6th), 12 Bill And Coup (5th), 25 Dry Gin, 33 Keep Straight (pu), 50 Clonmacogue (ur), The Butler (f), Gold Shaft. 13 ran. NR: Bronze Final. ½l, 8l, 1l, 3½l, 25l. J Spearing at Alcester. Tote: £46.80; £6.20, £2.60, £2.20. DF: £816.20. CSF: £392.06. Tricast: £2,444.22.

2.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, RIVER ISLAND (C Llewellyn, 12-1); 2, Shaarid (Mr G Johnson Houghton, 20-1); 3, Major's Law (R Campbell, 2-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Strong John (pu), 13-2 Yimkin Bookra (4th), 7 Salman, 10 Rive-Jumelle (6th), Arany (6th), 16 Aardvark, 18 Lake Dominion, 20 Parking Bay (pu), 33 Hasty Spark (pu), Framsden, 50 Out'n'out (ur), Desperate Man (pu), Oliver Duckett (ur), Wednesdays Auction, Snappy's Boy Josh, Ruth's Gamble, 66 Coin Game (pu), Early Gales (pu). 21 ran. NR: Aremef. 1l, 6l, 20l, 5l, 12l. J Old at Bristol. Tote: £11.80; £2.90, £8.90, £1.60. DF: £732.70. CSF: £236.43.

2.50 (3m ch) 1, SADDLER'S CHOICE (N Williamson, 4-6 fav); 2, Punch's Hotel (T Grantham, 12-1); 3, Spikey (R Dunwoody, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Not So Soon (pu), 8 Pats Minstrel (pu), 16 Ulano (4th), 20 Carrigeen (f), Man of Mystery (5th), 40 Fanlile (pu). 9 ran. 2l, 30l, 10l, dist. J Edwards at Ross-on-Wye. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £8.20. CSF: £10.45.

3.20 (2m 110yd ch) 1, PRIVATE AUDITION (A Maguire, 13-2); 2, Northern Jinks (D Meredith, 4-1); 3, Rupples (W Worthington, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Kind'A Smart (f), 11-2 Deemess Spook (4th), 8 Devil's Valley (pu), 33 War Dancer (5th), Bective Boy (6th). 8 ran. NR: Star Of Italy. 20l, 5l, 2½l, ¾l, dist. F Murphy at Worlingworth. Tote: £5.20; £1.30, £1.70. DF: £10.50. CSF: £30.27. Tricast: £229.51.

3.50 (3m 2f hdle) 1, OFFICER CADET (D Bridgwater, 11-1); 2, Rubins Boy (A S Smith, 9-1); 3, Sea Buck (A Maguire, 13-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Landsker Oats (pu), 7 Spartan Times (5th), 8 Perry Well, 12 Ridwan (pu), 14 Coxann (4th), Wilkoski (6th), 33 Smallmead Lad (pu). 10 ran. NR: Pearl Prospect. 1l, 10l, 10l, 3½l, 1¾l. D Wilson at Epsom. Tote: £12.20; £3.40, £1.90, £1.80. DF: £35.50. CSF: £97.67. Tricast: £224.35.

4.20 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, LUSTY LIGHT (M Pitman, 12-1); 2, Anna Valley (A Maguire, 4-1); 3, Dennington (M Hourigan, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 3 fav Brora Rose, 5 Lough Brown (pu), 13-2 West Bay (ro), 15-2 Misty (5th), 11 Gotta Be Joking (4th), 14 Tropical Ace (6th), Midday Show, 33 Idling By, 100 Llanelly (pu), Pewter Peta (pu). 13 ran. 2½l, 6l, 5l, 2l, 5l. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £9.00; £2.90, £1.70, £2.70. DF: £15.00. CSF: £59.35. Tricast: £558.17.

Placepot: £580.50.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.40 (1m) 1, Mark's Club (Alex Greaves, 4-1); 2, Erlking (4-9 fav); 3, Genesis Four (50-1). 5 ran. 6l, 6l. T Barron. Tote: £7.30; £1.10, £1.20. DF: £1.80. CSF: £6.29.

2.10 (6f) 1, Mister Jolson (S Drowne, 10-1); 2, Little Saboteur (10-1); 3, Le Chic (10-1). Hinari Video 7-2 fav. 10 ran. 1½l, 1½l. R Hodges. Tote: £13.00; £2.50, £2.80, £4.00. DF: £97.00. CSF: £97.23. Tricast: £840.65.

2.40 (1m) 1, Dee Raft (Dean McKeown, 1-3 fav); 2, Nymph Errant (8-1); 3, Medland (10-1). 5 ran. 4l, 1l. B Hills. Tote: £1.40; £5.40, £1.50. DF: £3.40. CSF: £3.81.

3.10 (7f) 1, Spencer's Revenge (Dean McKeown, 7-2); 2, Bold Habit (7-2); 3, Sarum (9-1 fav). 8 ran. NR: Try Leguard. 3½l, 1l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £4.40; £1.10, £1.30, £1.40. DF: £8.70. CSF: £15.98. Tricast: £37.34.

3.40 (1m 4f) 1, Breakdancer (J Williams, 2-5 fav); 2, Sharp Dance (11-4); 3, Gone Bust (8-1). 4 ran. 12l, 12l. W Muir. Tote: £1.40. DF: £2.10. CSF: £1.98.

4.10 (1m 4f) 1, Albert (J Quinn, 3-1 fav); 2, Falcon Flight (8-1); 3, Naseer (7-2). 9 ran. 2½l, 4l. D Wilson. Tote: £4.50; £1.60, £2.60, £1.80. DF: £15.10. CSF: £21.12. Tricast: £61.39.

Placepot: £82.20.

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Lady Murless dies after short illness

By Jack Waterman

LADY Murless, the widow of the great trainer, the late Sir Noel Murless, has died in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, after a short illness.

Sir Noel had a quite incredible record in the classics, with 19 victories between 1948 and 1973. But his wife undoubtedly played an integral role in the fashioning of that success, particularly with her sympathetic understanding of young horses.

Born Gwen Carlow in Scotland, Lady Murless was a superb horsewoman, and in pre-war days trained jumpers near Ayr.

In 1940 she married Murless, then training in Yorkshire. There followed moves first to Beckhampton, then to Warren Place, Newmarket, where they reached the peak of their success.

It was from Warren Place that Murless sent out Caergwrle to take the 1,000 Guineas in 1968, carrying his wife's colours. She not only owned but had bred Caergwrle and this was her most memorable racing triumph.

She leaves a daughter, Julie Cecil, with whom she had horses, and two grandchildren, Katie and Noel.

Desert Orchid to parade at Sandown

DESERT Orchid will make his first public appearance since undergoing emergency surgery last November at Sandown Park tomorrow week. He will lead the parade for the Agfa Diamond Chase, a race he won three times during his career.

Desert Orchid, aged 14, has fully recovered from colic but the Sandown executive is to donate 50 pence for each paying customer towards his veterinary fees.

Part-owner Richard Burridge said: "He's very well and, provided there are no setbacks, will definitely be parading.

"Sandown was one of his favourite courses and he won nine races there, including the Agfa Chase in 1987, 1989 and 1991, the final victory of his career."

☐ Jason Callaghan will be out of action until the middle of next week following a fall at Sedgefield on Wednesday. Middleham-based Callaghan, aged 24, was taken to North Tees Hospital in Stockton with facial injuries after Stags Fell came down in the Winter Sports Handicap Chase.

Pressure piles on Bills in dangerous ratings game



Better by half: the NFL is banking on viewers tuning in to Jackson's performance

SIMON BARNES AT SUPERBOWL XXVII

Whisper it not. Naturally, nobody is saying anything. But the Super Bowl has a problem. It's true. It is the biggest annual event in sport, and the biggest annual event in American television. And it is in trouble.

Money-men and media moguls howl. So they should: a 30-second advertising slot in the Super Bowl will set you back $850,000. But there is no ducking it. The essence of sport is unpredicability, and everyone in the United States already knows the result of Super Bowl XXVII. Dallas, they believe. Easy. Can't lose. And people also expect a deadly dull one-sided game. Disaster.

The National Football League is so worried that they have called in the cavalry. Playing the biggest card available in the United States, if not the world, they have rubbed the media lamp and summoned up Michael Jackson. Unbelievably, they even managed to get the epicene minx to a massive press conference. He showed up in one of his more winsome Great Dictator outfits.

Why is it necessary to play so colossal a card? The answer is the half-time show. Virtually the entire country watches the Super Bowl. But these days, virtually half of them switch over during the half-time show, and they don't come back. Nobody wants to watch the usual sort of half-time show; and anyway, by this time the game is over. The half-time show has become the weak point in the package: naturally, rival television stations attack at precisely this point.

The problem is the audience has rumbled the fact that every single year, the Super Bowl is a cup final between a first-division side and a team from the second. And for the past eight years, shock-horror, the first-division side has won. In most of those games, the game has been wrapped up by half-time. Well, what's on the other channel, then?

The Super Bowl matches the winning team from the *National Football Conference* (NFC) against the winning team from the American Football Conference (AFC). The last time an AFC side won was in 1984. Of the subsequent eight games, six were — in dramatic terms — dreadful. Last year, Washington were 17-0 up at half-time, and they won 37-24; an irrelevant last-quarter rally flattered their opponents, the Buffalo Bills.

The Bills are at the Super Bowl again. The third successive year. And, again, they are confidently expected to lose. The betting favours Dallas by seven points: a lot. It doesn't look good. The dreaded half-time switch-off looms once again. Send for Michael Jackson!

A close game would be nice, but it would not really be enough. Buffalo gave us one of those two years ago. They lost 20-19, missing a 47-yard field goal with the last play of the game. But the favourites still won, and the imbalance between the two conferences was preserved.

This year, Buffalo are *expected to lose almost* as a matter of routine. Picking the Super Bowl winner has become a matter of checking to see which team won the NFC championship. Without uncertainty, there is no sport. There is no doubt about it: there is trouble on the horizon. If results do not change, the game's structure will have to be changed: A close game would only be a short-term gain. But a Buffalo win would be a serious, long-term investment for the sport and for television. It would restore the event's credibility as a grand, unpredictable sporting event.

Tough on the Buffs. Buffalo are going through the mad motions of media scrimmaging with a world-weary air. Their chief weapon is, as ever, Jim Kelly, the quarterback and marshal of the renowned no-huddle offense. The tactic is immensely demanding of the quarterback, requiring wit and leadership. It can only operate with an exceptional player like Kelly.

"I'm just happy to be here," Kelly said, smiling, and no doubt burning up inside. "Many great quarterbacks never get to play a single Super Bowl." And he's played two and lost both, lucky fellow. One of the things about the media blitz at this event is that if there is anything you wish to put out of your mind, you can rest assured that you will be reminded about it over and over again, day after day after day. How do you feel about the prospect of losing three Super Bowls in a row, Jim?

"Without a doubt we are more business-like than before. Everyone is focused. It doesn't bother me a bit to be an underdog. In fact, I kind of like it." Kelly has described *this as* "a must-win game ... we've been together so long. To be champions, you must play together as a team. And I have never been on a team as close as this one, this year."

Marv Levy, the head coach of the Bills, is famous for reading books, a strange aberration in a football coach. Modern history, mainly. He has a mildly apologetic professorial air to him. He mildly rebuked reporters who brought the "must-win" quote back to him. "World War Two was a *must-win situation*," he said.

Sometimes, hearing his reasonable, well-thought-out assessments, *you can* convince yourself that this year, at last, the second-division side will come good. "The most important thing *is for the players* to feel good about their knowledge of Dallas. Preparation, preparation, preparation."

How do you feel about the prospect of losing three Super Bowls in a row, Marv? "I have no dread about this game. I have enthusiasm. I am not worried about what will be said if we don't win this game. We don't have fear of our opponents or the event, but we respect the Cowboys and the game. We believe we'll win, but there are no assurances."

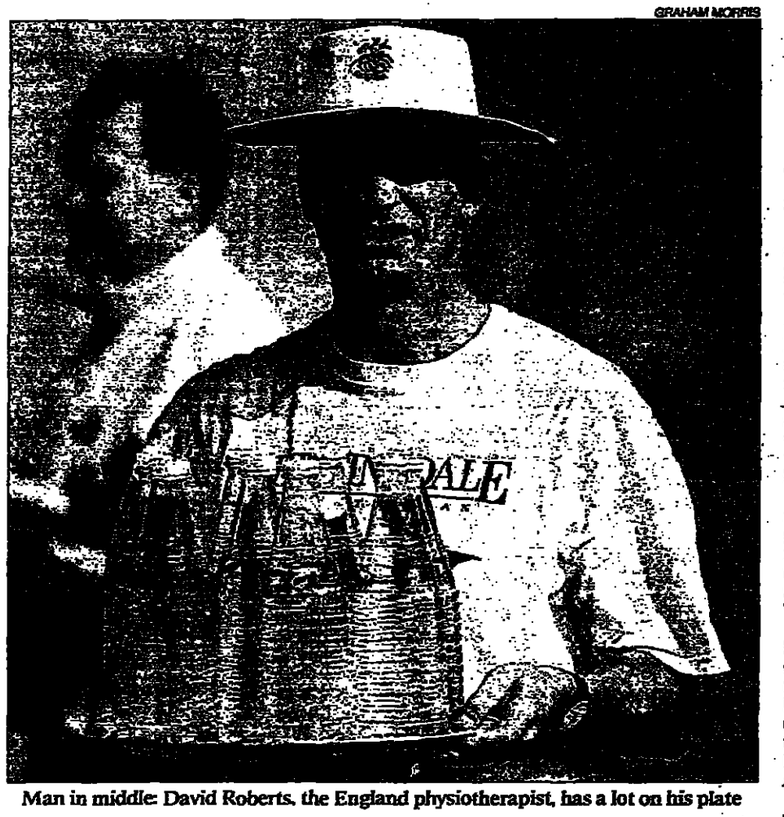
Well said, Marv. But they're not about to cancel Michael Jackson.

Medical question hangs over England management as Test series gets under way in Calcutta

Sick-list stresses need for team doctor

David Miller reports that the TCCB's attitude to a doctor accompanying national touring teams is not shared by most sporting bodies

GRAHAM MORRIS



Man in middle: David Roberts, the England physiotherapist, has a lot on his plate

ENGLAND go into what seems likely to be a spinners' Test match here today hoping they have what it takes to counter the wristy Indians on a controversial new pitch at Eden Gardens. That they may be equally dependent on Indian doctors as on Tufnell or Salisbury is less than satisfactory.

Throughout the tour, the England party has been *intermittently beset, unsurprisingly* in the Asian subcontinent, by various forms of sickness. Gooch, Salisbury and Atherton *have all been under intense* antibiotic treatment for the past few days. Yet, astonishingly, the party has no travelling doctor.

During the World Cup in Australasia last year, the same question was raised at a time when England suffered a number of injuries. Then it was said that the absence of a team doctor was on financial grounds. Ted Dexter yesterday denied that this was the case on the present tour. If so, then the omission is even more surprising.

Results in international sport so often stand or fall on the health of an individual, as England's football team discovered to their cost in the 1970 World Cup quarter-final in Mexico, when Banks, the goalkeeper, was taken ill hours *beforehand. Yet the Test party* is the only England team from a leading sport consistently to travel without a medical specialist, *and that on the longest* of any foreign tour.

"It seems to me incredible," a consultant neuro-surgeon at a London teaching hospital, who has extensive experience of India, said yesterday. "The standard of medicine in India can be so varied, and a travelling team would not necessarily know who to go to. If you find a good local doctor, you will probably have good diagnosis, but you cannot be sure. I would be very wary of some local diagnosis, and a team doctor would know the quality of professional assistance he was offered where required."

The attitude of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is in sharp contrast to most other sports organisations. *The British Olympic* Association in Barcelona last year had six doctors at headquarters and another 11 specialists with *individual sports.* The British athletics team always travels with two doctors for the indoor and outdoor world championships and takes one doctor abroad at junior level. Even the four-man Davis Cup team took its own man on a one-week trip to India last year, at the request of Tony Pickard, the coach.

"We considered the matter carefully, and it was not turned down because of money," Dexter said. Yet it is contradictory that the TCCB should enjoy a £1 million sponsorship over four years from Whittingdale Fund Management — allowing extended training at Lilleshall, a *scouting trip by Keith Fletcher*, the team manager, to watch India in South Africa, and Geoffrey Arnold's presence here in India as a fast bowler's coach — yet should leave the whole operation at possible risk by the absence of a doctor.

In the opinion of some, there should be two doctors, one medical, one orthopaedic, given the demands and stress of a compact modern tour with little time for rest and recovery, so vital to proper treatment. Dr John King, director of the Department of *Sports Medicine at London* Hospital Medical College, said during the World Cup that the run of injuries was no surprise, and added that the presence of a sports psychologist was at least as important as a doctor to enable players to cope with stress.

Such advice could, of course, be an instance of medicine promotion, and it has to be said that the cricketers are temperamentally a resilient lot. But Dr Tom Crisp, adviser to Essex County Cricket Club, put his finger on the issue when he said that while a physiotherapist is capable of dealing with some common ailments, he cannot be sure of his diagnosis with uncommon infections.

David Roberts, the amiable physiotherapist here with England, is confident that he *has the camp's ailments under* control and says that there has been no delay in prescribed treatment. He has attended a course himself on foreign diseases. Yet, as Dr Axon said yesterday: "Any delay in diagnosis and treatment can affect the period of recovery."

West Indies hold the upper hand after historic win

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

THE only problem with having staged one of the greatest Test matches is how to follow it. Australians are heady with anticipation of the deciding game in the series with West Indies, which starts here tomorrow, and are convinced that the cruel denial of Adelaide's one-run defeat will be avenged. Disenchantment may beckon.

West Indies have not remained unbeaten for 13 years without some close encounters but such moments have habitually inspired them.

Australia's chance of winning this series may have gone in that breathtaking finish on Tuesday just as, three years ago, England lost a similar opportunity in Trinidad.

England won the first Test handsomely in that series and only the weather deprived them of a 2-0 lead. But West Indies were galvanised by the escape, rousing their passion to grind down England in Barbados and crush them in Antigua.

A West Indian reprieved is a dangerous man. The psychological balance has shifted towards West Indies and, judging by the way Bob Simpson, the Australia coach, has begun to insist that his side has dominated the series, *the home camp is uncomfortably aware of it.*

West Indies enjoy playing at Perth. They have easily won all three of *their previous* Tests here, two by an innings, and with the exception of their own beloved Bridgetown, there is not a ground in the world where conditions are friendlier to their all-pace attack.

A change is being forced on them by a knee injury to Kenneth Benjamin but this *may be no bad thing.* Patrick Patterson has been bowling *in the nets like an angry dog* straining at his leash.

Erratic he may be but, at 31, he still has the raw speed to provide an effective foil to the peerless, probing Curtly Ambrose.

Australia's fitness concern yesterday was the bowling hand of Tim May, battered and bruised during his heroics with the bat on Tuesday.

If he is ruled out, it will solve a delicate problem. Australia are unlikely to include two spin bowlers here and the choice between May and Shane Warne was never going to be straightforward.

Jo Angel, 24, is the newcomer. *In only his second season* with Western Australia, his selection is further evidence of the Australian vote for youth.

Angel is tall and capable of genuine pace; his inclusion may well be at the expense of Steve Waugh or the out-of-form Mark Taylor.

If Taylor goes, his opening job will be done by Justin Langer while his friend, Damien Martyn, who has recovered from an eye injury, will return at No. 5.

"Bill and Ben", as they are known in their state dressing-room, have years ahead of them in Test cricket but rarely will they play in a game where the stakes are higher than this.

It had been a fine series even before Adelaide. Now, it is an epic. Sir Gary Sobers, who played in the tied Test at Brisbane in 1960, was in the crowd this week and said the *tension was incomparable.*

"Our game was the first of a series and, when it came to the last ball, it might still have been a draw," he said. "At Adelaide, everything depended on it and the excitement was far greater. It was a wonderful occasion."

Allan Border, still 50 runs short of the all-time run record once held by Sobers, agrees with that and feels Test cricket, badly undersold in Australia these past few years, will be all the better for it. "If this doesn't drag them in this weekend, nothing will," he said.

AUSTRALIA (from): A R Border (captain), D C Boon, M A Taylor, J L Langer, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, D E Martyn, T A Hasty, M G Hughes, S K Warne, T B A May, C J McDermott, J Angel, A I C Dodemaide. WEST INDIES (from): R B Richardson (captain), D L Haynes, P V Simmons, B C Lara, K L T Arthurton, C L Hooper, J R Murray, I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose, K C G Benjamin, C A Walsh, B P Patterson.

Southport revive the spirit of old

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

CHARLES Clapham, the chairman of Southport, gushes optimism for the future. Voted out of the Football League in 1978 and near bankrupt in 1981, Southport have turned in profits for the past five years, sit on top of the *HFS Loans League* and have launched a £300,000 plan to develop Haig Avenue.

To satisfy the GM Vauxhall Conference, they will have to spend £100,000 to replace the covered terracing pulled down five years ago. "If we fail to go up, it will be because we're points short not pounds short," Clapham, who runs a chemical business in Speke, said. The work starts next month to meet the Conference deadline of the second Saturday in May.

"I have a gut feeling that we will be able to raise the money and complete the rest of the work as well," Clapham said. "The people of Southport have shown this season that they want a football club. We keep a running chart in our programme and the latest is that our attendances are up 123 per cent and we've had the biggest crowds since we left the *Football League.*"

Tomorrow, Southport travel to Goole Town, where the bright start to *the management* career of Tommy Tynan has evaporated in a run of seven matches without a win.

Morecambe, Southport's leading league rivals, meet Wycombe Wanderers in the second round of the FA Trophy. Wycombe might be hot favourites to repeat their Trophy win of two years ago but Eddie Weldrake, the Morecambe chairman, is summoning the spirit of Morecambe's 1974 Trophy triumph at Wembley and "a moral victory" — in fact, a 1-0 defeat — against Hull City in the FA Cup at Christie Park last season.

INDIA AND ENGLAND TEST RECORDS

India — batting and fielding

	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct/St
P K Amre	4	6	1	169	103	33.80	1	—	—
M Azharuddin	51	77	3	3237	199	44.55	11	11	43
Kapil Dev	120	174	13	4952	163	30.75	8	28	59
A R Kumble	6	7	1	62	21*	10.33	—	—	1
K S More	43	59	12	1247	73	26.53	—	7	86/16
M Prabhakar	23	37	7	1002	95	33.40	—	7	10
W V Raman	8	13	1	367	96	30.58	—	3	5
N S Sidhu	20	33	2	894	116	28.83	2	4	3
S R Tendulkar	21	32	2	1158	148*	38.60	4	5	14
S L V Raju	10	16	5	178	31	16.18	—	—	3

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	5i	10m
M Azharuddin	11	0	12	0	—	—	—	—
Kapil Dev	4380.1	983	12286	412	29.82	9-83	23	2
A R Kumble	358.5	109	731	24	30.45	6-63	1	—
K S More	2	0	12	0	—	—	—	—
M Prabhakar	963.2	193	2808	66	42.54	6-132	3	—
W V Raman	43	19	66	2	33.00	1-7	—	—
N S Sidhu	11	0	57	0	—	—	—	—
S R Tendulkar	52	15	141	4	35.25	2-10	—	—
S L V Raju	448.3	156	926	24	38.58	6-12	1	—

R Chauhan and V G Kambli have not played Test cricket

Compiled by Richard Lockwood Source: TCCB/Bull

England — batting and fielding

	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct/St
M A Atherton	21	39	1	1311	151	34.50	3	9	20
M W Gatting	68	117	14	3970	207	37.57	9	19	51
G A Gooch	99	179	6	7573	333	43.77	17	41	96
G A Hick	11	17	0	307	51	18.05	—	1	22
P W Jarvis	6	9	2	109	29*	15.57	—	—	—
C C Lewis	14	19	1	446	70	24.77	—	3	13
D E Malcolm	21	29	8	145	15*	5.00	—	—	3
I D K Salisbury	2	3	0	66	50	22.00	—	1	—
R A Smith	36	66	14	2645	148*	50.86	7	18	28
A J Stewart	22	40	4	1493	190	41.47	4	6	27
P C R Tufnell	10	13	8	23	8	4.60	—	—	4

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	5i	10m
M A Atherton	51	11	282	1	282.00	1-60	—	—
M W Gatting	1252.2	29	317	5	79.25	1-14	—	—
G A Gooch	3823	1081	8941	22	406.63	3-39	—	—
G A Hick	123	44	205	6	51.00	4-126	—	—
P W Jarvis	224.3	46	728	14	52.57	4-137	—	—
C C Lewis	516	116	1535	42	36.19	6-111	2	—
D E Malcolm	803.3	137	2673	74	36.12	6-77	3	1
I D K Salisbury	70.1	3	306	5	61.20	3-49	—	—
R A Smith	4	2	6	0	—	—	—	—
P C R Tufnell	462.1	148	1091	38	28.71	7-47	4	1

J P Taylor has not played Test cricket

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FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa 3, Sheffield United 1; Manchester United 2, *Nottingham Forest 0; Norwich City 4,* Crystal Palace 2; Queens Park Rangers 1, Chelsea 1; Tottenham Hotspur 0, Ipswich Town 2

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: First division: Bristol Rovers 0, Charlton Athletic 2; Luton Town 0, *Newcastle United 0, Millwall 4, Peterborough* United 0; Southend United 4, Birmingham City 0, Sunderland 1, Watford 2; West Ham United 2, Bristol City 0, Wolverhampton Wanderers 1, Barnsley 0. Second division: Brighton 1, Bradford City *1; Huddersfield Town 3, Hartlepool United* 0; Reading 1, Bolton Wanderers 2; Stoke City 1, Exeter City 1

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP: Semi-final: First leg: Brentford 3, Derby County 4

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Falkirk 5, Berwick Rangers 1 (Falkirk home to Celtic)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee 0, Partick Thistle 0. First division: Cowdenbeath 0, St Mirren 3; Hamilton Academical 1, Kilmarnock 2; Meadowbank Thistle 3, Dumbarton 3.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Burnley 1, West Bromwich 1; Coventry 2, Middlesbrough 1; Everton 2, Mansfield 1; Port Vale 3, Wigan 0; York 2, Blackburn 0

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: Leyton Orient 2, Wycombe 0.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 0, Watford 2; Bristol Rovers 1, Cheltenham 0

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: AC Milan 0, Internazionale 0; Napoli 0, Roma 0

FRENCH LEAGUE: Bordeaux 2, Toulouse 0

DUTCH LEAGUE: Ajax 4, Vitesse Arnhem 0.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Spain 1, Mexico 1 (in Las Palmas).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Newport AFC 2, Evesham 3

BASS IRISH CUP: Fifth-round replays: Newry 1, Dundela 1 (aet: Dundela win 5-4 on penal); Portadown 0, Glentoran 1; Coleraine Utd 2, Dungannon Swifts 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: G and W Engineering Cup: Dunsby 2, Ossett Town 1; Spennymoor 5, Glasshoughton Welfare 1.

KONICA LEAGUE CUP: Preliminary round: Mold 2, Newtown 3.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo: Group A: Palmeiras 2, Marilia 1; Portuguesa 1, Juventus 1; Santos 2, Noroeste 0; São Paulo 2, Ponte Preta 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Charterhouse 6, Glyn 1; Chigwell 1, Enfield GS 2; Haileybury 8, Broxbourne 1; Oratory 2, Douai 1; English Addidas Trophy: Leicestershire 0, Humberside 1; English Mars Under 19 Trophy: First round: South East Essex College 5, Sprowston High School Norwich 1; Pendleton College Greater Manchester 0, Delesalle High School Liverpool 2; Burton Tech 5, The Priory's Chester 2; Thomas Bedford Northants 1; Peterborough College 6; High Pavement College, Nottingham 3; Norton College Sheffield 2; Hugh Baird College Bootle 3; Deeside College 0; English British Gas Trophy: Fifth round: North Herts C, South London 2; Friar County match: Nottinghamshire 1, West Yorkshire 3

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Phoenix Suns 117, Minnesota Timberwolves 116 (OT); Charlotte Hornets 117, Sacramento Kings 107; Detroit Pistons 103, Boston Celtics 94; Indiana Pacers 127, Philadelphia 76ers 125 (OT); Los Angeles Clippers 107, Utah Jazz 97; San Antonio Spurs 119, Seattle SuperSonics 99; Golden State Warriors 123, Denver Nuggets 95.

BILLIARDS

SHEFFIELD: UK Championships: Second round: R Foldvari (Aus) bt N Pettit, 4-0; N Dagley bt M W Gilman (Eng), 4-1; D Joshi (India) bt B Close (Eng), 4-1; P Gilchrist (Eng) bt R Williams (Eng), 4-0

BOBSLEIGHING

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy: Two-man World Cup event: 1, Italy I, 1min 48.36sec; 2, Italy II, 1 48.61; 3, Great Britain I, 1 48.71; 4, Great Britain II (M Tout and D Ward), 1 48.82.

BOXING

ORZINUOVI, Italy: European bantamweight championship: Vincenzo Belcastro (It) bt Antonio Picardi (It), pts.

BOWLS

CARDIFF: Welsh Indoor championships: Quarter-finals: E Gammon, D Riseley; R Gough (Swansea) bt W Kirk, D Kindon, B Kindon (Llanelli), 18-15; J Wadley, G Williams, L Webley (Vale of Glamorgan) bt A Richy, D Mogford, R Price (Merthyr Tydfil), 22-11; D Cox, H Cox, J Davies (Cardiff) bt V Hope, T George, T O'Connor (Port Talbot), 23-13; J Downey, M Jenkins, C Lewis (Merthyr Tydfil) bt H Griffiths, P Jarrett, B Griffiths (Vale of Glamorgan), 24-6.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Sydney: Tasmania 252 (R Ponsag 126); New South Wales 213-5 (M Slater 75, M G Bevan 75). Brisbane: Queensland 201; Victoria 27-0.

GEDDES GRANT TROPHY: Guaracara Park: Trinidad and Tobago 154-8 (45 overs) (R Smith 77), Windward Islands 147-2 (38.2 overs) (D A Joseph 83 not out). Windwards won by 8 wkts, chasing 145 off 43 overs in rain-reduced match.

GHAZIABAD: *First under-19 test match:* England 246-2 (M Bowman 128 not out) v India.

CYCLING

ANTWERP SIX-DAY RACE: Leading final positions: 1, E De Wilde (Bel) and K Khrabtzov (Rus), 413pts. Five laps behind: 2, U Freuler (Switz) and P Pieters (Hol), 374. Seven laps behind: 3, P Bincoletto and G Bontempi (It), 300. Ten laps behind: 6, A Doyle (GB) and R Sorensen (Den), 187.

GOLF

PERTH, Australia: Vines Classic: First-round leaders (Australia unless stated): 65: P Senior. 67: R Allenby, P Harford. 68: G Marrick, M King, P O'Malley, L Stephen, M Clayton. 69: J Freeman (US), T Power. 70: J Kay (US), G Joyner, T Elliott, M Campbell (NZ), R Mackay, P Davenport (NZ), P Moloney. 71: J Wagner, J Pitade, R Flaherty, S Conran, M Zaks, W Clatworthy, S Appleby. British: 75: P Hoad.

LUSAKA: Zambian Open: First-round leaders (GB unless stated): 69: G J Brand, I Spencer. 70: J Tilmanis (Swe), P Njiru (Ken). 71: P Golding, D Jones, P Hamson.

BOGOR: Kosaido Indonesia Women's Open: *First-round leaders* (GB and Ire unless stated): 71: K Lesken (US), 74; H Hopkins (Aus). 75: D Dowling, Huang Yu-Chen (Taiwan), J Forbes, K Lunn (Aus). 76: L Fairclough, C Hjalmarsson (Swe), L de Paulo (US), S Prosser. 77: J Fogey (US), H Wadsworth, C L Ames (Can), K Sale (US), D Bernard, L Hackney, D Reid, M Pett (US), S Winsinger (US), Li Wen-Lin (Taiwan).

SAN LORENZO, Algarve: *Longshot-Dona Filipa Pro-am:* 146: M Studds (Formby Golf Centre), 72, 74. 148: K Brown (Serpentine) 74, 74. 161: D Battle (Dulwich and Sydenham), 82, 79; I Bolt (Cricklade Hotel), 84, 77. Teams: 293: Studds, Battle, Brown.

HOCKEY

CLUB MATCH: RAF 1, Cambridge University 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Colston's 1, King Edward's, Bath 0; King's Rochester 3, Chatham House 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo Sabres 4, Washington Capitals 3; Hartford Whalers 6, Montreal Canadiens 5; New York Rangers 5, Winnipeg Jets 2; Detroit Red Wings 2, Edmonton Oilers 2 (OT); Chicago Blackhawks 4, Vancouver Canucks 4 (OT).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Second division: Swinton 10, Oldham 36.

YOUNGERS ALLIANCE CUP: Second round: Leeds 60, Huddersfield 18.

SNOOKER

REGAL WELSH OPEN: Newport: Quarter-final: K Doherty (Ire) bt J Parrott (Eng), 5-1.

SQUASH

CALGARY: Canadian Open: Quarter-finals: S Meads (Eng) bt D Webb (Eng), 13-15, 15-12, 15-8, 17-16; T Honda (Eng) bt Z Jehan (Pak), 18-13, 15-13, 15-7; P Whitlock (Eng) bt J Bonesat (Fr), 15-13, 17-16, 15-3; D Meddings (Eng) bt B Martin (Aus), 8-15, 15-6; 15-13, 14-15, 15-10.

FOOTBALL

Barclays League
Third division
Colchester v Barnet (7.45)
Doncaster v Shrewsbury (7.30)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shelbourne v Bohemians (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

RUGBY LEAGUE: Youngers Alliance Challenge Cup: Second round: Hull v Bradford Northern; Widnes v Wakefield Trinity; Doncaster v Ryedale York; Oldham v Wigan; Sheffield v Dewsbury. Youngers Alliance first division: St Helens v Castleford; Halifax v Featherstone. Second division: Bramley v Keighley.

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh championship (Newport).

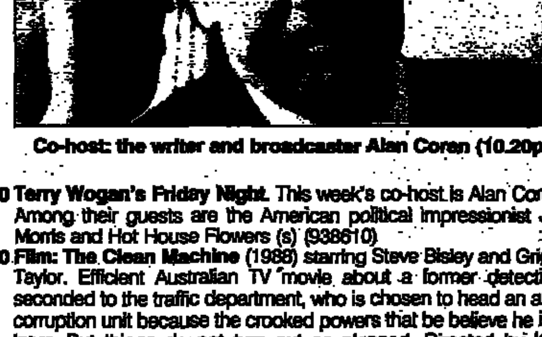
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S game

Southport revive the spirit of old

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast presented by Paul Burden, Sara Coburn and Heather Payton (43900)
7.00 Breakfast News. News and topical reports from home and abroad with extended bulletins on the hour and headlines every 15 minutes. Plus business updates, sport, weather and travel news (13794423)
9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topcal discussion (s) (9684165) **9.45 Ross King.** Quiz game show (s) (3786707)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (4375829) **10.05 Playdays.** For the very young (r) (s) (2925558)
10.30 Good Morning ... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Today's edition includes showbusiness gossip, weekend shopping ideas, a romantic story, a gardening advice phone-in and consumer affairs. With **News** (Ceefax) and weather at **11.00** and **12.00** (46440405)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Judi Spiers introduces the cast of the West End musical *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (s) (3929165) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (24693097)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (78523)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (58431726) **1.50 Eldorado** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (30186310)
2.20 First Letter First. Word game hosted by Don Maclean (s) (54805233) **2.45 The Flying Doctors.** Drama series set in the Australian outback (s) (5091813)
3.30 Cartoon Double Bill (7241368) **3.45 Juniper Jungle.** Cartoon (s) (1322356) **3.55 Quick Draw McGraw** (r) (9427720) **4.05 Jackanory.** Tony Slattery with the first of a three-part story by Lynne Reid Banks, *The Magic Hare* (9123981) **4.15 Rude Dog and the Dweebs** (r) (5707707) **4.30 The Really Wild Show.** From Mauritius, a reconstruction of the story of the dodo. (Ceefax) (s) (3569610)
4.55 Newsround Extra. Krishnan Guru-Murthy reports from an American school where the pupils make up the rules (6420900) **5.05 Grange Hill.** Comprehensive school-drama serial. (Ceefax) (s) (3111558)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (820287). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Jill Dando. (Ceefax) Weather (233)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (813). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (1097)
7.30 Entertainment Express. Showbusiness magazine presented by Selina Scott and John Leslie. The guests include Emma Thompson (Ceefax) (487). Northern Ireland: Sportscene
8.00 Your Best Shot presented by Marti Caine. Two teams of builders race each other to build an outside lavatory; Dora Bryan accepts a challenge to pass herself off as a transport cafe waitress; and juggling troupe Flipside attempt an extraordinary record. (Ceefax) (s) (657487)
8.50 Points of View. Anne Robinson with another selection of viewers' brickbats and bouquets (s) (446900)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (4788)
9.30 Love Hurts. After the giddy delights of Moscow, Frank and Tessa return to England to face the realities of married life. Is it as they expected? Starring Zoë Wanamaker and Adam Faith. (Ceefax) (s) (426165)



Co-host: the writer and broadcaster Alan Coren (10.20pm)

10.20 Terry Wogan's Friday Night. This week's co-host is Alan Coren. Among their guests are the American political impressionist Jim Morris and Hot House Flowers (s) (938610)
11.00 Film: The Clean Machine (1988) starring Steve Bisley and Grigor Taylor. Efficient Australian TV movie about a former detective, seconded to the traffic department, who is chosen to head an anti-corruption unit because the crooked powers that be believe he is a loser. But things do not turn out as planned. Directed by Ken Cameron (512252). Northern Ireland: 11.10 Entertainment Express 11.40 Terry Wogan 12.20-1.50 Film: Shattered Innocence; Wales: Snooker 11.40-1.30 Film: The Clean Machine
12.50am Weather (4166363)

BBC2

8.00 Breakfast News (4860523)
8.15 Westminster (9224233)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational Programmes
2.00 News and weather followed by **Words and Pictures** (s) (90443900)
2.15 Sport on Friday introduced by Helen Rollason. Skiing: a preview of the world championships that begin next week in Morioka-Shizukuishi, Japan; Rugby League: a look forward to the first round of the Challenge Cup; Football: a review of the FA Cup fourth round results (558691). With **News** (Ceefax) and weather at **3.00** and **3.50**
4.00 Catchword. Paul Coia presents another round of the game for wordsmiths (s) (726)
4.30 Behind the Headlines with Shyama Perera (s) (610)
5.00 China Run. The story of American Stan Cottrell's extraordinary 2,125 mile run across China from the Great Wall to Canton (2274523)
5.50 The History Man. Bryan McNerney explores the secrets of Cornwall's prehistoric stone circles (r) (866875)
6.00 Stingray. Classic underwater puppet adventures (r). (Ceefax) (136146)
6.25 The Man From UNCLE. Spoof secret agent series from the 1960s starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum. This week Ilya and Napoleon, together with a trainee, are assigned to stop THRUSH's attempts to enter the space race (r). (Ceefax) (106981)
7.15 Dr Who. Episode four of the six-part story *The Genesis of the Daleks*, first seen in 1975, starring Tom Baker (r). (Ceefax) (896436)
7.40 What the Papers Say presented by political columnist Julia Langdon (419436)
8.00 Public Eye: Alternative Medicine — Trick or Treatment? Janet Trewin reports on the dangers of the unregulated world of alternative medicine (1287)
8.30 Front Gardens.
● CHOICE: A 1930s suburban semi with a big lawn and a troublesome silver birch is this week's challenge for the cool and sensible Gay Search and the design expert John Brookes. The tree is sucking nutrients out of the soil and throwing huge shadows. As a result the lawn is an undernourished mess. Some of us might think of ditching the tree. Brookes and Search decide to sacrifice the lawn. Since the grass gives way to gravel and the beds are planted with dreary shrubs, the change is arguably not an improvement. But that is a matter of taste. At least the owners are pleased. The virtue of *The Front Garden* is that it deals with the real world, where such compromises have to be made. The main quibble, since the series claims to offer low-cost solutions, is that many of its suggestions seem suspiciously expensive. (Ceefax) (7894)
9.00 Rab C. Nesbitt. The sometimes incomprehensible streetwise Scottish sage with more philosophical pearls of wisdom. Starring Gregor Fisher (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8558)



Tribute to a jazz pioneer: the late Dizzy Gillespie (9.30pm)

9.30 Arena: A Tribute to Dizzy Gillespie.
● CHOICE: The trumpeting pioneer of bebop had the misfortune to die on the same day as Rudolf Nureyev, who tended to hog the obituary notices. Anthony Wall's film, a last-minute addition to the *Arena* season, is an attempt to make amends. Wall has been to New York to dig among Gillespie's contemporaries and protegés and has supplemented archive footage with freshly-shot interviews. The contributors include John Lewis, Milt Jackson, who played in Gillespie's band, two younger trumpeters, Winton Marsalis and Jon Faddis, and Gillespie's cousin Boo Frazier. There is footage from Gillespie's memorial service, a New Orleans-style jazz funeral attended by 6,000 people, and a clip from Gillespie himself in which he explains the origin of his nickname. It is also revealed that Gillespie died with the BBC owing him money. (51349)
10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (433875) **11.15 Weather** (432436)
11.20 Heimat (colour and b/w). Episode two of the acclaimed 11-part German saga following the lives of three families living in a small village from 1919 to 1982 (928558). Wales: Wales in Westminster 11.50 Heimat 1.20-1.50 Behind the headlines
12.50am Behind the Headlines (r) (s) (9980566). Ends at **1.25**

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV with Eamonn Holmes and Anne Davies. Includes a television preview by *The Sun's* Gary Bushell (7027639)
9.25 Runway. Quiz show hosted by Richard Madeley (9254165) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (2838078)
10.00 The Time ... The Place .... Topical discussion programme (2495959)
10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes a look at alternative therapies and interior decorating advice. With national and international news at **10.55** and regional news at **11.55** followed by national weather (64582894)
12.10 Tots TV. Children's puppet series (s) (9264078)
12.30 Lunchtime News. (Teletext) Weather (6255977) **1.05 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (64259184)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial. (Teletext) (129184) **1.45 A Country Practice.** Medical drama serial set in the Australian outback (128455)
2.15 Life Goes On. American family drama serial (5894813)
3.10 ITN News headlines (9887558) **3.15 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (9886829) **3.20 Blockbusters.** General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness (s) (3608879)
3.50 Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends (r) (9811320) **3.55 Zzzap.** Television comic (9692097) **4.15 Talespin.** Animated adventures (r) (s) (8903788) **4.40 Eye of the Storm.** Episode four of the environmental thriller. (Teletext) (2851374)
5.10 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (3032097)
5.40 Early Evening News. (Teletext) Weather (350523)
6.00 London Tonight. Entertainment magazine for the south-east. (Teletext) (95639)
7.00 Celebrity Squares. Bob Monkhouse is joined by Leslie Grantham, Anna Soubry, Geoffrey Durham, Valerie Lehman, Little and Large, Tessa Sanderson, Hattie Hayridge, Debbie McGee and Pat Sharp (s) (6165)

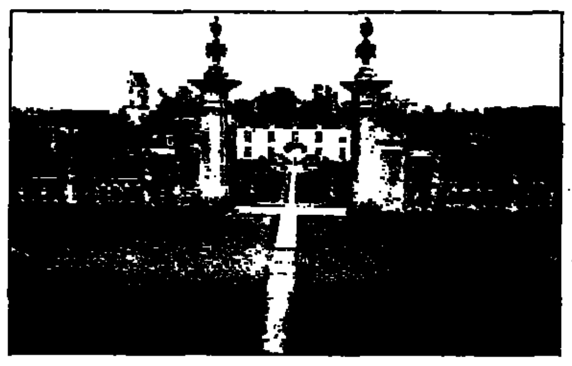


House wine: Kevin Kennedy, right, brings a bottle (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (165)
8.00 The Bill: Heat of the Moment. WDC Martella and DCI Meadows have a serious difference of opinion after a beautiful woman admits to committing murder. (Teletext) (5813)
8.30 Second Thoughts. Middle-aged romantic comedy starring James Bolam and Lynda Bellingham. (Teletext) (s) (4320)
9.00 The Good Guys. Nigel Havers and Keith Barron in the comedy-drama which seems to be losing its lighter touch. This week they are on the Suffolk coast after MacFadyean's brother is drowned in mysterious circumstances. (Teletext) (s) (7558)
10.00 News at Ten. (Teletext) Weather (60455) **10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (291981)
10.40 Love and War. American romantic comedy about two opposites who fall in love. Starring James Thomas and Susan Dey (s) (782542)
11.10 Crime Monthly presented by Paul Ross. Includes reports on contract killers and on how Streatham police deal with a weekend of crime (339610)
12.10am TV Dating! Matchmaking service for singles (1226479)
12.40 The ITV Chart Show (s) (2850479)
1.35 Whale On. James Whale chair a topical debate (8133276)
2.40 American Gladiators. Contests of strength, skill and technique (s) (4031672)
3.45 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema. Movie news from Hollywood (49728498)
4.20 Austin City Limits. Country music series (5968030)
5.30 ITN Morning News (64011). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.40 Spiff and Hercules (2823233)
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (68146)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show (s) (47504)
9.30 Schools (848165)
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Anne Perkins with reports on the business of both Houses (67368)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early-learning series (13726) **1.30 Lift Off.** Children's entertainment (77233)
2.00 Film: The Green Light (1937, b/w). Adequate tear-jerker with a star part for Errol Flynn as a dedicated young doctor who resigns rather than reveal that his older, senior colleague caused the death of their patient. With Walter Abel and Cedric Hardwicke. Directed by Frank Borzage (560436)
3.35 The King's Stamp (b/w). A Post Office documentary, made in 1935, about the production of a stamp to celebrate King George V's jubilee (7198578)
4.00 Travelog. Pete McCartney discovers the interesting face of New Zealand (r). (Teletext) (s) (894)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley presents another round of the words and numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (338)
5.00 Cutting Edge: Exposure. A repeat of Monday's documentary following the fortunes of a group of company executives on one of the country's toughest management courses in the wilds of Scotland. (Teletext) (3078)
6.00 Blossom. Comedy about a teenaged girl in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (s) (271)
6.30 Happy Days. American high school comedy. (Teletext) (523)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (769894)
7.50 First Reaction. John McVicar on why Central's documentary *Murder in Mind* should not have been shown (314542)
8.00 In Search of Holy England. Rabbi Lionel Blue continues his exploration of English spirituality with a look at the class system and what makes a gentleman (r). (Teletext) (3455)
8.30 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (2962)



Formal surroundings: Château de Brecy in France (9.00pm)

9.00 Gardens Without Borders. The series on France's splendid gardens continues with a visit to the formal grounds of Château de Brecy and the more natural gardens of Château de Canon, near Caen (9946)
9.30 Cheers. Cliff receives a visit from an old flame who has recently returned from Canada, heavily pregnant and calling him Daddy. (Teletext) (s) (98726)
10.00 Nurses. Black comedy set in a hospital in *Golden Girls* country. (Teletext) (s) (68097)
10.30 Absolutely. Comedy sketch show starring Morwena Banks, John Sparkes, Peter Baikie, Jack Docherty, Gordon Kennedy and Moray Hunter (s) (707962)
11.05 The Word. Music, chat and video programme (s) (355368)
12.10am Film: The Brain From the Planet Arous (1958, b/w) starring John Agar. Unwittingly hilarious science fiction yarn about two brains floating in space — one good, the other evil — who respectively take over the bodies of a nuclear physicist and his dog who begin to battle each other for supremacy of the world. Directed by Nathan Hertz (2782189)
1.25 American Football: Play Action presented by Mick Luckhurts and Gary Imlach (8721450). Ends at **1.55**

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0839 121204 (calls charged at 48p per minute peak, 36p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus+, Acomex Ltd, 5 Ivory House, Plantation Wharf, London SW11 3TN. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (3608879) **5.10-5.40** The Package Pilgrims (3032097) **6.00** Home and Away (156900) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (581225) **10.45** Anglia Live (336287) **11.45** Married...with Children (708981) **12.10** Night Heat (1770362) **1.05** Whale On (9991672) **2.05** Raw Power (3567450) **3.05** Entertainment UK (5180905) **4.00** Sportsworld (26059) **4.30** Riviera (95030) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (66030)

BORDER
As London except: **1.45** One To One (128455) **2.15-3.10** Donahue (5894813) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (3608879) **6.00** Lookaround (829) **6.30-7.00** Take The High Road (981) **10.40** See That's Her — Again (582726) **11.40** Island Son (947788) **12.35** Love At First Sight (1109672) **1.05** Whale On (9991672) **2.05** Raw Power (3567450) **3.05** Entertainment UK (5180905) **4.00** Sportsworld (26059) **4.30** Riviera (95030) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (66030)

CENTRAL
As London except: **1.15** A Country Practice (129184) **1.45** Home and Away (128455) **2.15-3.10** McCloud (5894813) **3.20-3.50** GP (3608879) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Movies, Movies (3032097) **6.00** Home and Away (156900) **6.25-7.00** Central News (581225) **10.40** Central Weekend (9566417) **12.10** Film: Intrigue (376945) **1.55** Whale On (8137092) **2.55** The Beat (4022924) **3.55** The Twilight Zone (86189653) **4.20-5.30** Jobfinder (4552363)

GRANADA
As London except: **1.15** A Country Practice (129184) **1.45** Home and Away (128455) **2.15-3.10** Highway to Heaven (5894813) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (3608879) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Movies, Movies (3032097) **6.00** Home and Away (829) **6.30-7.00** Granada Tonight (981) **10.40** Up Front (582726) **11.40** Film: The Dead Don't Die (George Hamilton, Ray Milland, Linda Cristal) (228875) **1.05** Whale On (9991672) **2.05** Raw Power (3567450) **3.05** Entertainment UK (5180905) **4.00** Sportsworld (26059) **4.30** Riviera (95030) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (66030)

HTV WEST
As London except: **1.45** Wish You Were Here..? (128455) **2.15-3.10** A Country Practice (5894813) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (3608879) **6.00** HTV News (829) **6.30-7.00** HTV Sportsweek (981) **10.40** Late and Live (9566417) **12.10** Miller and Mueller (1770362) **1.05** Whale On (9991672) **2.05** Raw Power (3567450) **3.05** Entertainment UK (5180905) **4.00** Sportsworld (26059) **4.30** Riviera (95030) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (66030)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: **6.00** Wales at Six **6.30-7.00** Get Going **10.40** Storyline **11.10-12.10** Island Son

MERIDIAN
As London except: **2.15** Future Perfect (110436) **2.45-3.10** Wish You Were Here..? (7331417) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (3608879) **6.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (95639) **10.40** Film: The Human Factor (33095962) **12.30am** Married...with Children (7880030) **1.05** Whale On (9991672) **2.05** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (2842943) **2.35** Cue the Music (4028196) **3.30** Sport AM (41127) **4.30** Country Ways (95030)

TYNE TEES
As London except: **1.45-3.10** Film: Heatwave! (6324554) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (3608879) **6.00** Tyne Tees Today (95639) **6.30-7.00** Friday Documentary (981) **10.40** Head to Head (582726) **11.40** Film: A Little Game (242455) **1.05** Whale On (9991672) **2.05** The Big E (3567450) **3.05** Film: Fixed Bayonets (298108) **4.45** Rocksport (73756491) **5.00-5.30** Challenge of the Seas (66030)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: **1.45** Blockbusters (128455) **2.15** Wish You Were Here..? (110436) **2.45-3.10** Gardener's Diary (7331417) **3.20-3.50** A Country Practice (3608879) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (95639) **10.40** Westwise (782542) **11.15** Film: The Execution of Raymond Graham (520271) **1.05** Whale On (9991672) **2.05** Raw Power (3567480) **3.05** Entertainment UK (5180905) **4.00** Sportsworld (26059) **4.30** Riviera (95030) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE
As London except: **1.45-3.10** Film: Heat Wave (6324554) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (3608879) **5.55** Calendar (742707) **6.30-7.00** Superchamps (981) **10.40** Musical Routes (782542) **11.10** Married...With Children (669368) **11.40** Film: A Little Game (242455) **1.05-2.05** Whale On (9991672)

S4C
Starts: **7.00** The Big Breakfast (68146) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (47504) **9.30** Ysgolion (848165) **12.00** The Parliament Programme (67368) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (78962) **1.00** Lift Off (81236) **1.30** Close to Home (77233) **2.00** Film: Cowboys Don't Cry (407233) **3.55** Travelog (3869338) **4.25** Slot 23 (2209338) **5.00** Countdown (7271) **5.30** Brookside (558) **6.00** News (696558) **6.10** Heno (118726) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (4707) **7.30** Y Maes Chwarae (707) **8.00** Cein Gwlad (3455) **8.30** News (279165) **8.55** Aria (306900) **9.45** Snwcer (320441) **10.15** San Steffan (964417) **10.30** Absolutely (707962) **11.05** The Word (355368) **12.10** Film: The Brain From The Planet Arous (2782189) **1.25-1.55** American Football (8721450)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (45677810) **8.40** Lamb Chops Play-a-Long (8280146) **9.10** Cartoons (1396894) **9.30** The Pyramid Game (30726) **10.00** Strike It Rich (99542) **10.30** The Bold and the Beautiful (80928) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (16707) **12.00** Falcon Crest (20348) **1.00pm** E Street (10523) **1.30** Another World (4802959) **2.15** Santa Barbara (767368) **2.45** Maude (768639) **3.15** The New Leave It To Beaver (756252) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (8167894) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (2558) **6.00** Rescue (3962) **6.30** E Street (7542) **7.00** Alf (3287) **7.30** Family Ties (3726) **8.00** Code 3 (8707) **8.30** Alien Nation (96558) **9.30** WWF Superstars of Wrestling (97165) **10.30** Studs (10487) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (20900) **12.00** Skytext

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise Europe (3638813) **9.30** Nightline (92320) **10.30** 48 Hours (81726) **11.30** International Business Report (51504) **1.30pm** Good Morning America (96271) **2.30** Parliament (75252) **3.30** The Lords (5320) **5.00** Live at Five (3900) **7.30** 48 Hours (271839) **10.30** Nightline (55455) **12.30am** 48 Hours (10419) **1.30** ABC News (77092) **2.30** Travel Destinations (17340) **3.30** ABC News (41382) **4.30** *Financial Times* Business Weekly (68108) **5.30** ABC News (19585)

SKY MOVIES+
6.00am Showcase (4222568)
10.00 An American Summer (1990): Michael Landes befriends Brian Austin Green in California (18558)
12.00 Kona Coast (1968): Fisherman Richard Boone avenges his daughter's murder (71146)
2.00pm Malcolm Takes a Shot (1990): A basketball player develops epilepsy (92639)
3.00 Everyday Heroes (1990): Teachers try to quell racism (3601184)
3.50 The Witching of Ben Wagner (1987): Children's drama (528610)
5.30 Xposure: Film news (8417)
6.00 An American Summer (as 10am) (43572929)
7.40 Entertainment Tonight (812392)
8.00 Murder in Mississippi (1990): American civil rights drama (75873558)
9.40 US Top Ten (963417)
10.00 Relentless (1989): Judd Nelson as a psychotic killer (781320)
11.35 Hardcase and Fist (1988): Martial arts thriller (823165)
1.10am Fear (1990): Ally Sheedy helps the police to track a murderer (351491)
2.45 'Til Murder Do Us Part (1992): Scorned wife Meredith Baxter takes revenge on her husband (500566)
4.15 Any Man's Death (1990): Reporter John Savage unearths a Nazi war criminal (582450). Ends at **6.00**

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.15pm The Man from the Diner's Club (1963): Danny Kaye becomes embroiled with gangsters (98820691)
8.00 Georgy Girl (1966): James Mason harasses employee Lynn Redgrave (43252)
10.00 Nightmare in Badham County (1976): Two hitch-hikers are captured by white slave traders (27726). Ends at **12.00**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
7.00am The Adventures of Nellie Bly (1981): Linda Purl exposes corruption and brutality in a mental asylum (93766)
9.00 The Scarlet Hour (1956): Carol Ohmart's lover kills her husband (82479252)
10.40 Waterloo (1971): Rod Steiger stars as Napoleon Bonaparte (96335962)
1.00pm Vestige of Honour (1990): Gerald McRaney returns to Thailand (70417)
3.00 The Chipmunk Adventure (1989): Cartoon fun (87078)
5.00 M.A.D.D. (1983): A mother campaigns against drunk driving (97523)
7.00 Bravestarr: The Legend (1986): Animated space western (24726)
9.00 Days of Thunder (1990): Tom Cruise as a maverick racing driver (75813)
11.00 The Guardian (1990): Jenny Seagrove stars as an evil nanny (615356)
12.35am The Kissing Place (1990): A boy discovers that his mother and father are not his real parents (681672)
2.10 Pink Lightning (1991): Comedy about five women in a Cadillac (84327585)
5.00 Lions for Breakfast (1976): Two brothers camp in a safari park (73816585). Ends at **6.40**

SKY SPORTS
6.00am Test Match Cricket: India v England (3179271) **11.00** Fishing (63504) **11.30** Welsh Open Snooker (789233) **2.30pm** Australian Open Tennis (932078) **5.00** The Boot Room (8320) **6.00** Soccer Weekend (83417) **7.00** Test Match Cricket (814368) **10.00** Welsh Open Snooker (720455) **1.00am** Australian Open Tennis (540392) **3.30-6.00** Test Match Cricket (538547)

EUROSPORT
6.00am Step Aerobics (72813) **8.30** Ford Ski Report (49875) **9.30** Trans World Sport (52726) **10.30** Step Aerobics (51320) **11.00** Basketball (21368) **12.30pm** Eurofun (93894) **1.00** Snooker (96349) **2.00** Ice Hockey: European Cup Final (95691) **4.00** Gaelic Football (3252) **6.00** Motorsport (98733) **7.00** Wayne Rayney Portrait (88356) **8.00** Eurofun (4065) **8.30** News (2900) **9.00** The Big Fight (79165) **10.30** Billiards (60368) **11.30-12.00** News (39184)

SCREENSPORT
7.00am ASP Surfing (30523) **8.00** European Indoor Hockey (31252) **9.00** Ten Pin Bowling (46523) **10.00** Squash (43875) **11.00** Bud Water Ski Tour (61146) **11.30** World Cup Water Skiing (43368) **12.30pm** Ten Pin Bowling (18894) **1.30** Mickey Thompson Off Road Racing (54399) **2.00** Grundig Global Adventure Sport (3875) **2.30** Football Holland (9165) **3.00** Spanish Football (66891) **4.00** Monster Trucks (4207) **4.30** Squash (53078) **5.30** Water Skiing (51184) **6.30** NBA Action (1146) **7.00** Sports Magazine (7691) **7.30** Go! (25523) **8.30** Kick Boxing (49252) **9.30** Boxing (44097) **10.30** Volvo PGA Golf (86542) **11.30-12.30am** Bowling (18962)

UK GOLD
6.00am Rainbow (57473900) **6.15** Button Moon (57478455) **6.30** Dungeons and Dragons (9552813) **7.00** Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers (2915691) **7.30** Neighbours (2934726) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (5570542) **8.30** EastEnders (5579813) **9.00** The Bill (5560165) **9.30** The Brothers (8805707) **10.30** Tenko (5559523) **11.30** Don't Wait Up (5718243) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (5853829) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7242368) **1.00** EastEnders (2914962) **1.30** The Bill (7241639) **2.00** Never the Twain (1566436) **2.30** The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin (7344875) **3.00** Dallas (7613879) **4.00** Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers (7368455) **4.30** Degrassi Junior High (7364639) **5.00** Neighbours (1557768) **5.30** Dr Who (7348891) **6.00** The Brothers (7323287) **7.00** Never the Twain (1560252) **7.30** Don't Wait Up (7365368) **8.00** EastEnders (1579900) **8.30** The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin (1565707) **9.00** Tenko (1431558) **10.00** The Bill (5654558) **10.30** Alas Smith and Jones (5567078) **11.00** The Goodies (7718423) **11.30** Film: The Body Snatcher (1945, b/w) with Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi (3381078) **1.00-2.00am** Video Bites (2715586)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air, with Piers Burton-Page. Including Haydn (Symphony No 20 in C); Debussy, orch Caplet (Suite, Children's Corner); Bach (Four Chorales); Roussel (Joueurs de flûte)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi's settings of poems by Tasso. Performed by the Consort of Musicke under Anthony Rooley, Red Byrd and the Parley of Instruments
9.45 Morning Sequence: Mozart (Serenade in E flat, K375: London Wind Soloists under Jack Brymer, clarinet); Beethoven (Variations on Bei Mannern welche Liebe fühlen, WoO 46: Keith Harvey, cello, Meralyn Knight, piano); Michael Nyman (Film music, Drowning by Numbers — excerpts: Michael Nyman Band under the composer, piano); Mozart (Serenade in B flat, K361: London Winds); Beethoven (Variations on Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen, Op 66: Keith Harvey, cello, Meralyn Knight, piano); Michael Nyman (Film music, Drowning by Numbers — excerpts: Michael Nyman Band under the composer)
12.00 Meyerbeer: Chant des moissonneurs vendéens; La barque légère); La chanson de Maître Floh; Sicilienne (Thomas Hampson, baritone, Geoffrey Parsons, piano); Gli amori di Teolinda (Berlin RSO under Gerd Albrecht, with Julia Varady, soprano, Jörg Fadle, clarinet) **1.00pm News**
1.05 Chamber Music from Manchester: Live from the Concert Hall, New Broadcasting House. The Chilingirian Quartet performs Haydn (String Quartet in C Op 64 No 1); Schubert (String Quartet in A minor, D804)
2.05 Youth Orchestras of the World: Britten-Pears Orchestra under Oliver Knussen performs Stravinsky (Ode); Copland (Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson: with Lucy Shelton, soprano); Philip Cashian (Feint Harps and Silver Voices); Tippett (Concerto for Orchestra)
3.35 David Owen Norris, piano, plays Grieg (Wedding Day at Troldhaugen); Malcolm Williamson (Five Preludes); Turina (Tre Danzas Andaluzas, Op 8); Ethelbert Nevin (Un giorno in Venezia); J. Strauss, son, arr Godowsky (Concert Paraphrase on Johann Strauss's Die Fledermaus) (r)
4.30 Land of the Lime Tree: Mojca Belak presents traditional songs and dances from Slovenia (r)
5.00 In Tune: Richard Baker's guest is the soprano Gwyneth Jones
7.30 BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier performs John Casken (Tableaux des Trois Ages); Gershwin (Piano Concerto in F); Stravinsky (The Rite of Spring)
9.00 Latin Lovers: Latin Lover. The last of five stories for Europe, written and read by Frederic Raphael
9.25 Bach's French Suites: Andras Schiff, piano, plays Suite No 3 in B minor, BWV 814; Suite No 6 in E, BWV 817
10.00 Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir under Tonu Kaljuste sings Veljo Tormis (Liv's Inheritance); arr Tormis (Estonian Folk Songs); arr Kreek (Songs from Vaimulikud rahvalaulud); Tormis (The Making of Iron) (r)
10.45 Moscow Writers
● CHOICE: Noel Witts has brought back a gloomy report on the role of the creative writer in Russia since the collapse of communism. Censorship has gone, only to be replaced by a new kind of repression brought on by the economic climate. Publishers cannot afford to print books and the public cannot afford to buy them. If she did not receive support from the West, one best-selling author would be playing the piano in the Moscow Metro, and a "Mafia" of anonymous sponsors is draining the Russian theatre of its independent spirit
11.30 Midnight Oil: Sarah Walker introduces Anthony Braxton (Compositions) and Harrison Birtwistle (Ritual Fragment; Carmen Arcadiae; Mechanicae Perpetuum)
12.30-12.35am News
1.00-2.25am Night School (except in Scotland: as R5 at 1.05pm)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is the percussionist Evelyn Glennie (r) (s)
9.45 Loss of Innocence: The fourth of six programmes in which Misha Glenny talks about his work as the BBC's central European radio correspondent
10.00-10.30 News; Hindsight (FM only)
● CHOICE: Christopher Andrew's rag-bag of historic happenings this week produces one anti-climactic piece about an underwater expedition to find some plundered Roman marbles and interesting items about the leisure and recording industries. The first concerns Thomas Cook's tours which began with steam-train trips that did not include toilet facilities. Men wore their own WCs, and women carried potties in hatboxes. The other reveals that Caruso, the first recording mega-star, had to stick his head down a tin horn, yet his 1904 "Vesti la giubba" was considered good enough for a transfer to CD
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 The Screwtape Letters (LW only): Letters from a Senior to a Junior Devil, by C.S. Lewis. With Gerald Harper as Screwtape (12/15)
10.30 Woman's Hour meets the explorer Freya Stark; and discusses Helen Fisher's book, *The Anatomy of Love.* Incl **11.00 News**
11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Jessica Holm
12.00 You and Yours, with Linda Lewis
12.25pm The Food Programme, presented by Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) (s) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Madame Bovary, by Gustave Flaubert. With Nicola Pagett as Emma (r) (s)
3.00 Special Assignment
3.30 Bookshelf: Nigel Forde visits George Mackay Brown at home in Orkney (s)
4.00 News
4.05 Kaleidoscope visits an exhibition of pictures at the Bernard Jacobson Gallery, inspired by the Lake of Innisfree; reviews Jonah Blank's book, *Arrow of the Blue-Skinned God*; and reports on the Hulton Picture Library (s)
4.45 Short Story: Shore Dances, by George Mackay Brown. Read by John Shedden (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places, presented by Janet Trewin (s)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers (s)
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris Serle (s)
8.05 Any Questions? Nick Clarke chairs a discussion in Castle Eden, Durham, between Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford UK; Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing; George Robertson, MP, opposition spokesman on Europe; and Edwina Currie, MP
8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins
9.15 Kaleidoscope: Nigel Andrews examines the cinematic history of the Dracula legend (r)
9.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Richard Kershaw (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Thus Was Adonis Murdered, by Sarah Caudwell (5/10)
11.00 Week Ending: A satirical review of the week's news (s)
11.25 The Financial Week, with Heather Payton
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Classic FM: FM-100-102.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes (FM only) **6.00** Simon Mayo **9.00** Simon Bates **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jakki Brambles **3.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **6.00** Mark Goodier's Mega Hits **6.30** News '93 **7.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Friday Rock Show **11.00** John Peel (FM only from 12.00) **2.00-4.00am** Lynn Parsons (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **5.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.00** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The Singer and the Song: Helen Shapiro **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** Philip Fowke at the piano **9.00** Listen to the Band: BNLF Band under Richard Evans **10.00** Radio 2 Arts Programme **12.05am** Jazz Parade **12.35-4.00** Charles Nove with Night Ride

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm. **3.40am** Test Match Special: India v England **6.00** World Service **6.30** Test Match Special **8.30** Morning Edition Update **8.50** Test Match Special **11.00** Johnnie Walker: The AM Alternative **12.30pm** Partnerships **1.05** Schools: Topic Resources 9-11; **1.20** Playtime; **1.35** The Music Box; **1.50** Something to Think About; **2.05** Music Workshop — Music Course 3 **2.30** A Game of Two Halves **4.30** Five Aside **6.30** King Street Junior (r) **7.15** The Green Blob Sensation (final part) **7.30** Popcall **8.30** Euromix **9.30** Ruby **9 10.10** (r) Rave, incl **11.00** Sport **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport **3.40** Test Match Special: India v England

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **4.30am** World Business Report **4.40** Travel and Weather News **4.45** Programmes in German **5.30** Europe Today **5.59** Weather **6.00** News **6.14** Travel News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Programmes in French **6.59** Weather **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Taking Issue Around the World **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Global Concerns **9.30** Seven Seas **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** News **10.01** Focus on Faith **10.30** World Ranking **11.00** Newsdesk **11.29** Travel **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **11.59** Business Update **Midday** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Taking Issue Around the World **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: Titus Groan **2.45** Global Concerns **3.00** News **3.15** Music Review **4.00** News **4.10** News About Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.29** News in French **4.30** Programmes in German **5.00** News and Business Report **5.14** Travel **5.15** BBC English **5.30** Programmes in French **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Programmes in German **8.00** News **8.10** The World Today **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Europe Tonight **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.10** News About Britain **10.15** People and Politics **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** World Business Report **11.15** Worldbrief **11.30** Multitrack 3 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** Recording of the Week **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Short Story: The Late Spring **1.45** Jazz Now and Then **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.10** News About Britain **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** News **4.15** Good Books

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concert: Poulenc (Concert Champêtre); Schubert (Symphony No 8) **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **6.00** Classic Reports **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Classic FM Concert: Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields performs Haydn (Cello Concerto No 2); Schubert (Symphony No 4) **10.00** Adrian Love **1.00-6.00am** Robert Booth

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England captain plays hundredth Test match

Gooch recovers to reach landmark

FROM PETER BALL IN CALCUTTA

RARELY can England have gone into a Test match in such a state of uncertainty as here today against India. Naming a team last night for the first Test constituted an act of faith rather than conviction as the chest virus which has disrupted their plans continued to claim victims until the eleventh hour.

Graham Gooch, the captain, recovered enough to have a net yesterday, only for Michael Atherton to succumb. After missing practice, Atherton made a rapid recovery, but with Ian Salisbury also less than 100 per cent, almost the only certainty was that Philip DeFreitas had been ruled out by his groin injury.

If there was any encouragement for England it was that Gooch's recovery came in time for him to celebrate his hundredth Test appearance in suitably impressive surroundings. With almost all tickets sold, crowds of 75,000 are expected at Eden Gardens for the first three days, providing the sense of occasion Gooch deserves for his immense contribution to English cricket.

It is hard to imagine an England team without him now, yet he confessed this week that, even four years ago, he would have dismissed the possibility of becoming only the fourteenth player to reach this milestone.

"I've always felt that as players get older they fall away," Gooch said, "but for some reason I've been able to maintain a certain standard. I started to train with West Ham United in the winter of 1980 and that has helped." He also has little doubt that the captaincy of his country, of which he is so unaffectedly proud, has been an important factor in his continuing enthusiasm. "It has given me more responsibility and I have become a different player," Gooch said, "but a better one."

He has come a long way since his debut in 1975 against the rampant Australians of the Lillee and Thomson era. "I was caught Marsh bowled Lillee nought; and caught Marsh bowled Thomson nought," he recalled. "I'd only been in the game a little over a year and I felt like a little schoolboy alongside the established names. But it wasn't a disgrace — in a way, getting a pair made it a memorable experience."

There have been even more memorable ones since as Gooch has grown from the tyro to the most influential batsman in his side. The Indians know his worth all too well after his 333 — the highest score by an England captain — against them at Lord's, his favourite ground, in 1990. But although he remembers that match with affection he insists the best innings are the ones which determine games, and selects his 154 against West Indies at Headingley in 1991, when he carried his bat, as perhaps his personal best.

While that belief, and the insistence on how helpful his physical training has been, is consistent with a certain puritan ethic, people who see him in that light — missing the wry sense of humour — will be surprised to learn that he admits to hoping "to be remembered as an entertaining player, and that people have enjoyed watching me".

Few would doubt that, and there could also be little doubt that his influence on the England team has been significant. "When I took over we were at a bit of a low ebb," he said. "With the number of players in our system, if they are moulded the right way, there is no reason why we should not win matches."

Gooch has done much to achieve that goal. Today, all his formidable powers of concentration will be directed to helping England to start the series with a win.

Leaving aside the debilitating effects of the virus, it will not be easy. Fletcher came back from South Africa unimpressed by what he saw of the Indian team, but warned that on home soil they would be a different proposition.

That point has already been made. Sidhu, Kambli and Tendulkar have shown that they are excellent players of spin, and there were hints in the second one-day international at Chandigarh that Azharuddin may be finding his form. The batting which collapsed so abjectly in South Africa suddenly has a more solid look.

Whether they would cope with Devon Malcolm, who has looked an outstandingly good fast bowler at both Cuttack and in the nets this week, and Paul Jarvis on a quick pitch remains uncertain. The wicket here, though, will not be quick, although it is expected to turn from early on.

"It will be a slow turner," the groundsman predicted yesterday. That is a view at which Fletcher had already arrived. India's decision to leave out Srinath, giving them three spinners and only two seam bowlers in their 12, suggests that Azharuddin shares it, too.

India have not won a Test at Eden Gardens for 18 years, but if the pitch is going to turn square they look the better equipped team, if only because their batsmen have played the England spinners so well so far. Winning the toss and batting first will be particularly important.

☐ The Australian Cricket Board (ACB), anxious to clamp down on ball-tampering, has ordered Martyn Moxon, the England A captain, to examine the ball regularly in all matches on the two-month tour, which starts in earnest in Sydney on Sunday. A two-run penalty will be imposed on no-balls, and a minimum of 112 overs must be bowled per day in the three-day matches.

The ACB will not impose fines but expects full co-operation from the England A management team of Mike Vockins and Norman Gifford. Gifford welcomed the ACB policy but said: "It's extremely hot and we will need to be up with the clock in the first session of every day in the field if we are to achieve our target."

INDIA (from): M Azharuddin (captain), N S Sidhu, W V Raman, V G Kambli, S R Tendulkar, P K Amre, K S More, Kapil Dev, M Prabhakar, R Chauhan, S L V Raju, A R Kumble.

ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (captain), M A Atherton, A J Stewart, R A Smith, M W Gatting, G A Hick, C C Lewis, I D K Salisbury, J P Taylor, P W Jarvis, P C R Tufnell, D E Malcolm.

Umpires: P D Reporter and S Venkataraghavan.

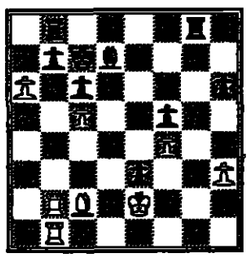
Gooch's Test Match Record

Opposition	M	Inn	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50
Australia	31	57	0	1714	196	30.07	2	11
West Indies	26	51	2	2197	154*	44.83	5	13
New Zealand	12	20	2	925	183	51.38	3	3
India	17	29	2	1678	333	62.14	5	8
Pakistan	10	16	0	683	135	42.68	1	5
Sri Lanka	3	6	0	376	174	62.66	1	1
Total	99	179	6	7573	333	43.77	17	41

100 Test appearances
137: A R Border (Aus).
125: S M Gavaskar (Ind).
121: I V A Richards (WI).
120: Kapil Dev (Ind).
118: Javed Miandad (Pak).
117: D I Gower (Eng).
116: D B Vengsarkar (Ind).
114: M C Cowdrey (Eng).
110: C H Lloyd (WI).
108: C G Greenidge (WI).
108: G Boycott (Eng).
107: D L Haynes (WI).
102: I T Botham (Eng).

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Nigel Short's Candidate's Final match against Jan Timman started earlier this month. This position is from a previous encounter of theirs, Timman — Short, Brussels 1987, and serves warning of how dangerous an opponent Timman can be. What is white's swiftest route to victory?

Solution on page 32

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

BOMBORA
a. Pursed lips
b. Dangerous water
c. The Italian gladiolus

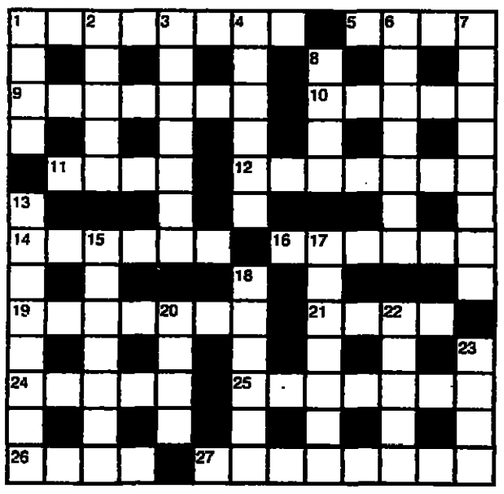
JADOUBE
a. A non-move at chess
b. A declaration of love
c. A type of fresco

PREMARIN
a. Mare's urine
b. Amphibian's eggs
c. Californian psychobabble

TOURNEE
a. A round trip or circuit
b. A type of dog-collar
c. A prisoner on parole

Answers on page 32

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3008



ACROSS
1 Drugs dispensary (8)
5 Replete (4)
9 Neophyte (7)
10 Pollex (5)
11 Very complacent (4)
12 Hold back, refrain (7)
14 Disc (6)
16 Aptitude (6)
19 Death ceremony (7)
21 Rich soil (4)
24 Employ for (3,2)
25 Australia rocket centre (7)
26 Eat (4)
27 Unrestricted scope (4,4)

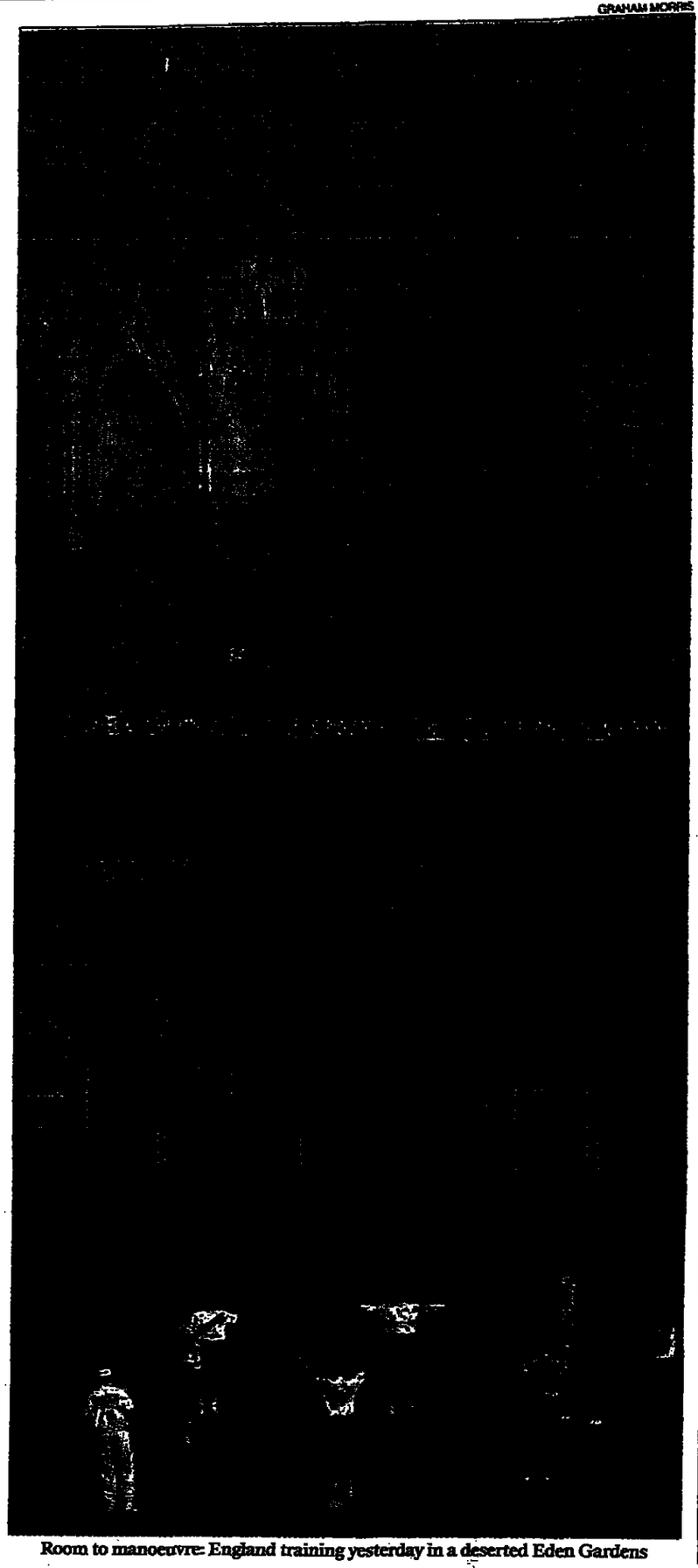
DOWN
1 Heap (4)
2 Frighten (5)
3 Administrator (7)
4 Wine jug (6)
6 Small guitar (7)
7 Set free (8)
8 Film lead (4)
13 Deeply penetrating (8)
15 Cutlery box (7)
17 Completed (3,4)
18 Frown (6)
20 Skating area (4)
22 Sports enclosure (5)
23 Stiff paper (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3007

ACROSS: 1 Sizzling 7 Swoon 8 Ross Perot 9 Gap 10 Muff 11 Coffin 13 Yellow 14 Renege 19 Cadger 20 Chic 21 Way 23 Islamabad 24 Prior 25 Imitated

DOWN: 1 Scrumpy 2 Zestful 3 Lope 4 Narrow 5 Coign 6 Snipe 7 Stiffen 12 Boudoir 15 Exhibit 16 Encoded 17 Bedlam 18 Swipe 19 Cynic 22 Omit

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels (runs on most PCs), call Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords. £5.99, ring Akom.



GRAHAM MORRIS

Room to manoeuvre: England training yesterday in a deserted Eden Gardens

Gower is relieved by end of debate

BY PETER BALL AND IVO TENNANT

DAVID Gower and Ted Dexter reacted in characteristic fashion yesterday to the news that the MCC dissenters had been defeated on Wednesday night. But if the manner of their responses varied, both were relieved that the issue was at an end.

Dexter, the chairman of the England selectors, put out an aggressive statement, welcoming the vote "despite these sophisticated and provocative tactics of the so-called rebels". By contrast, Gower's sense of whimsy was to the fore after arriving in Calcutta for today's first Test. Informed that the rebels won 40 per cent of the vote, he replied: "That's enough to win a general election." He left little doubt, however, that he had not wanted the issue pursued.

"It has long since ceased to be an issue for me," Gower said. "It was more a matter of principle for the protesters. My name was tacked on to what they were protesting about."

Gower, who was left out of the tour party, and Graham Gooch, the England captain, are eager for the matter to be dropped. "I haven't fallen out with him. I've nothing against David," Gooch insisted before Gower arrived in Calcutta. "It is not correct to say that his face doesn't fit. It was not the case that he was too old, but I was concerned about having three players over 30 in the top six."

Yesterday Gower, who still harbours hopes of a return to the Test team, proffered the olive branch, though he again was unable to resist a joke. "I don't want there to be barriers between Goochie and me; the sooner they are out of the way the better. But I don't want to go and see him now because I don't want to catch what he's got," he said.

In spite of being forced to spend £22,622 on its special general meeting, (SGM) MCC is unlikely to amend its constitution.

Referees may get more help

LINESMEN should get more power and join the referee on the pitch during matches, Sepp Blatter, the Fifa general secretary, says. "The linesman has to go on to the field," Blatter told a Belgian daily newspaper.

In order to improve communication, Blatter said that knowledge of English would become obligatory for referees, commenting: "He who doesn't know any basic English can be a very good referee but never a top referee."

Blatter said he hoped Fifa, football's world governing body, would introduce the changes in the linesman's role after the 1994 World Cup finals.

"The referee should get more help on the field. That's perfectly possible because there are two linesman, who all too often count for nothing," said Blatter, who also said that kick-ins would replace throw-ins after the 1994 finals.

"Everybody agrees the referee has too many tasks," Blatter said. "A first step to relieve him was the introduction of a fourth official who handles a number of administrative jobs at the sideline. But we have to go further." Blatter said the change would mean linesmen having to cover the full length of the pitch. "Now he has to run only half and as a result he's never tired after a match."

The referee and linesmen would have to co-ordinate more, with linesmen keeping the time or ensuring the right distance is kept between the ball and defensive wall at free kicks. They should also signal fouls to the referee more frequently. *(Reuter)*

England squash players make history in Canada

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE unexpected emergence of four English semi-finalists at the Canadian Open squash championship in Calgary yesterday ensured that for the first time in more than six years England will claim one of the important titles of the world tour. Never before has England secured all four semi-final places in a world ranking tour event.

The last Englishman even to reach a world tour final was Philip Kenyon, who lost to Jahangir Khan in the PIA Masters in 1986. Four times British champion between 1977 and 1985, Kenyon won the Hong Kong and Singapore titles in 1984-5.

Young players such as Del Harris, Simon Parke and Peter Marshall have promised to repeat Kenyon's long and admirable international presence among a plethora of brilliant Pakistanis, Australians and New Zealanders. But the achievement will now fall to Stephen Meads, of Berkshire, Tony Hands, of Essex, Danny Meddings, of Surrey, or Philip Whitlock, of Cheshire, the English national champion. They are respectively ranked eighth, fifth, 11th and fourth in England.

In a field depleted because of the Canadian event's separation this year from the US Open, Meddings perhaps most deserves the footnote in history, for his 64-minute 8-15, 15-6, 15-13, 14-15, 15-10 quarter-final defeat of Brett Martin, the Australian thought to be a natural winner in Calgary after the late withdraw of Jansher Khan, the world champion. Meddings, a left-handed 24-year-old who has been on the professional circuit for nine years, outgunned the best shot maker in the game, winning from 12-10 in the fifth with powerful forehand cross-court nick shots that left Martin devastated.

Similar commitment will be needed to achieve fame, however, as Meddings will next meet Whitlock, who is in a bitter mood against a group of English players who have deliberately isolated the English champion for failing to support their boycott of the national championships earlier this month. Whitlock beat Julien Boneiat, of France, 15-13, 17-16, 15-3.

Hands, a leading figure in the boycott group who admits to a strong hostility towards Whitlock, defeated Zubair Jahan, of Pakistan, 15-13, 15-14, 15-7 to reach a semi-final against Meads, the late-night 13-15, 15-12, 15-6, 17-16 victor over Darren Webb, of Essex.



Meads: late night

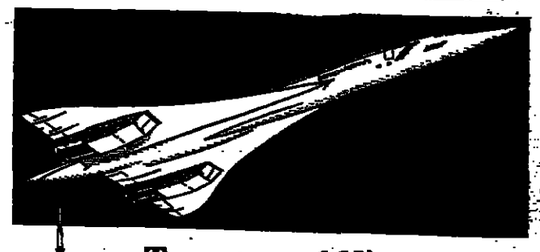
Committee reinstates Tudor

RICHARD Tudor, skipper of the yacht British Steel II, who retired from the second stage of the British Steel Challenge after being dismasted in the Southern Ocean, was reinstated in the round-the-world race yesterday (Barry Pickthall writes).

The decision, which will surprise many racing yachtsmen, was made by a panel of four international judges recognised by the International Yacht Racing Union. The committee, chaired by David Linacre, decided that the yacht should be given an elapsed time of 61 days 14 hours 15 minutes; exactly the time it took her crew to reach Hobart, even though Tudor made the final 3,700 miles under motor power.

The decision places Tudor and his crew last in the fleet of ten, three days and 12 hours behind Rhone-Poulenc and almost ten days behind the leader, Nuclear Electric.

The jury did not explain its decision but the ruling lends weight to the theory that the bottlescrew failures that have plagued the fleet, and that led directly to British Steel's dismasting, are the result of design shortcomings and not actions of the crews.



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